

Appendix C

Roadless area management and recommended wilderness

Background

In 1972 the Forest Service initiated a review of National Forest System roadless areas larger than 5,000 acres, known as the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation I (RARE I), to determine their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The second and final review process, RARE II, resulted in a nationwide inventory of roadless areas. In the years following RARE II, Congress has designated some areas as wilderness. Additional reviews have been conducted through the land management planning process and other large-scale assessments. The White River National Forest began its roadless area inventory evaluation in 1997, as part of the Forest Plan revision process.

On many National Forest System and grasslands, roadless area management has been a major point of contention in land management planning. Roadless areas are valued for many resource benefits including their undeveloped fisheries and wildlife habitat, biological diversity, and dispersed recreation opportunities. Controversy continues to accompany most proposals to harvest timber, build roads, or otherwise develop inventoried roadless areas.

In response to a national controversy over roadless area management, the Interim Roads Rule (*Administration of the Forest Development Transportation System: Temporary Suspension of Road Construction and Reconstruction in Unroaded Areas; Interim Rule; 36 CFR Part 212; 64 Federal Register 7290; February 12, 1999*) suspended road construction and reconstruction in certain inventoried roadless areas for 18 months (March 1999 through August 2000). A second Roadless Rule (*Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation; 36 CFR Part 294; 66 Federal Register 3244; January 12, 2001*) prohibited road construction and reconstruction in most inventoried roadless areas and outlined procedures to evaluate the quality and importance of roadless characteristics. The White River National Forest current roadless inventory (640,000 acres) was utilized in the analysis of the Roadless Area Conservation FEIS (USDA, 2000). The rule was originally scheduled to take effect on March 12, 2001; however, the Secretary of Agriculture extended the effective date until May 12, 2001, to permit the new Administration to review the rule.

On May 10, 2001, the Idaho District Court granted a preliminary injunction requested in Kootenai Tribe of Idaho v. Veneman and State of Idaho v. U.S. Forest Service enjoining the Forest Service from implementing “all aspects of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.” The Court’s decision to grant a preliminary injunction has been appealed and is now pending before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

On June 7, 2001, the Chief of the Forest Service and Secretary of Agriculture issued a letter concerning interim protection of inventoried roadless areas, stating that “the Forest Service is committed to protecting and managing roadless areas as an important component of the National Forest System. The best way to achieve this objective is to

ensure that we protect and sustain roadless values until they can be appropriately considered through forest planning.” (Bosworth, 2001) This appendix outlines the specific analysis process utilized in the roadless inventory process and the evaluation of capability, availability, and need for recommended wilderness of these areas.

**Roadless
Inventory**

The forest plan revision process required a new and more accurate inventory to address ongoing roadless area management issues.

Each undeveloped area on the forest was identified during the inventory and marked for further study according to the following measures:

- it contains 5,000 acres or more, or
- it contains fewer than 5,000 acres but
 - (a) is manageable in its natural condition, or
 - (b) is a self-contained ecosystem such as an island, or
 - (c) is adjacent to an existing wilderness, and
- it does not contain facilities for purposes of travel by vehicles greater than 50 inches in width.

Areas were excluded from the inventory if they contained reservoirs, utility corridors, electronic sites, developed recreation sites, or current mining activity. However, some improvements were deemed acceptable. If motorized trails, fences, outfitter camps, or historical mining and timber activities were present, the area still was regarded as a *physically undeveloped area*.

There are approximately 90 total roadless areas on the White River National Forest totaling 640,000 acres. Of these 90 areas, 37 were found capable and available for recommended wilderness (see below). The remaining 53 areas are identified as roadless but lacking sufficient wilderness characteristics or are not available.

**Management
Area
Allocation**

In the forest plan revision process, management areas were assigned to inventoried roadless areas based on the theme of the alternative, roadless characteristics each area contained, and other resource values. Roadless characteristics considered include: soil, water, and air resources; municipal watersheds; biodiversity; habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species and for those species dependent on large undisturbed areas of land; recreation opportunities in the primitive, semi-primitive nonmotorized, and semi-primitive motorized classes; reference landscapes; scenic integrity; traditional cultural properties; sacred sites; and other unique characteristics. An analysis of the management area allocations to roadless areas by alternative is found in Chapter 3, Topic 4—*Roadless Areas and Recommended Wilderness* in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Volume 2. The current roadless inventory and management area allocations are displayed in the FEIS map packet.

**Interim
Roadless
Direction**

Management area allocations for inventoried roadless areas were based on the key principles established by the Secretary of Agriculture and are outlined in the FEIS Chapter 3, Topic 4. The roadless inventory was developed utilizing the most current data available regarding roads and management activities on the White River National Forest to assure informed decision making. Throughout the forest plan revision process, the State of Colorado, Ute Nation, local governments, and the public were informed that roadless area management was a significant plan revision topic and

comments were requested. Comments were received from a variety of state and local governments, congressional representatives, and private citizens. Alternatives developed ranged from recommending no new wilderness from the roadless inventory (Alternatives B and F) to 200,000 acres in Alternative I.

The forest-wide protection of healthy forests and local communities from wildfire risks and insect and disease outbreaks did not vary with alternatives and is secured in the forest plan guideline addressing roadless area management. Finally, direction for providing access to non-federally owned land within the boundaries of the forest (including roadless areas) is found in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (1980).

Reasonable access to these private inholdings is secured in the legislation and forest plan direction must comply with all current laws.

Contiguous Roadless Areas

Contiguous roadless areas on adjacent Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or National Forest System (National Forest System) lands have the potential to increase the overall size of a roadless area and/or improve the overall wilderness characteristics. Most of the White River National Forest roadless areas were of sufficient size (5,000 acres or more) that the adjacent roadless areas did not add significant acreage to meet the minimum size requirements for wilderness recommendation. The exception was the Raggeds Roadless Area (16,400 acres) on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest System (GMUG) that is adjacent to McClure Pass Roadless Area (2,200 acres). The adjacent units' roadless areas are listed below in Table C-1.

Table C-1
Contiguous Roadless Areas on Adjacent Units

Adjacent Unit	Roadless Area	Acres	White River National Forest Adjacent Area
GMUG	Battlement Mesa	36,508	Housetop and Mamm Peak
	Hightower	4,592	Reno Mountain
	Clear Creek	41,357	Thompson Creek and East Willow
	Raggeds	16,400	McClure Pass
Medicine Bow-Routt	Dome Peak	2,136	Dome Peak
	Pagoda Peak	57,492	Ripple Creek, Pagoda Peak, and Morapos
Pike/San Isabel	259 RARE II	99	Wildcat Mountain
	170 RARE II	6,234	No Name
	355 RARE II	1,151	Chicago Ridge
Arapaho-Roosevelt	Mt. Sniktau	4,697	Porcupine Peak
	Williams Fork	35,963	Ute Pass
Bureau of Land Management	Deep Creek	4410	Deep Creek
	Hack Lake	3,538	Sweetwater and Red Dirt
	Thompson Creek	8,149	Assigination Ridge

Source: USDA, 2000, Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation FEIS

**Potential
Wilderness
Analysis**

The roadless area inventory was analyzed for potential wilderness recommendation based on the three tests of *capability*, *availability* and *need* that assessed each area's wilderness characteristics, its value relative to other resources, and the perceived need to add the site to the NWPS. The Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12 (USDA, 1992) outlines how to conduct an inventory and evaluation of roadless areas for potential wilderness designation, as the next sections describe. Individual ratings for the roadless areas determined to be capable and available follow in the appendix.

Additionally, 36 CFR 219.17(a)(2)ii requires that the values foregone and the effects on management of adjacent lands as a consequence of wilderness designation be addressed. Neither the designation of wilderness by Congress or recommendation of wilderness by the Regional Forester is anticipated to have a direct effect on the value or management of adjacent lands. FSM 2320.3(5) directs to “not maintain buffer strips of undeveloped wildland to provide an informal extension of wilderness.” Further, land management planning will continue utilizing the recreation opportunity spectrum as a tool to plan for adjacent lands. Designated and recommended wilderness on the White River National Forest ranges in the recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) from pristine to semi-primitive nonmotorized. The ROS for adjacent lands is determined based on the criteria outlined in the ROS handbook (USDA 1986). Management area allocations of lands adjacent to wilderness range from 1.31 (Semi-primitive nonmotorized) to 8.25 (Ski Areas).

Capability

The capability of a potential wilderness is defined in FSH 1909.12-7.21 as “the degree to which the area contains the basic characteristics that make it suitable for Wilderness designation without regard to its availability or need as Wilderness.” Among the characteristics analyzed were environment, challenge, outdoor recreation opportunities, special features, and manageability. Areas inventoried for wilderness potential with the highest capability included the following: Black Lakes West, Derby, Spraddle Creek, Deep Creek, Homestake, Red Table, Treasure Mountain, Ute Pass, Acorn Creek and Big Ridge, and Adam Mountain. This is displayed in Table C-2.

Availability

All National Forest System lands found to meet wilderness capability requirements are generally available for consideration as wilderness. However, this availability is constrained by a determination of the value of and need for the wilderness resource relative to the value of and need for other resources from the site. To be available for wilderness, the wilderness values of the resource, both tangible and intangible, should exceed the value of other resources that formal wilderness designation would preclude.

In addition, constraints and encumbrances on lands may govern the availability of lands for wilderness. The Forest Service should have sufficient control to prevent development of unresolvable, incompatible uses that would lessen wilderness character and potential. Lands that are generally best suited for development and intensive management for sustained-yield production or resources other than wilderness include the following:

- Areas in which the need for increased water production and onsite storage is vital;
- Lands that are needed for application of wildlife management measures of considerable magnitude;

- Highly mineralized areas of strategic and economic importance;
- Areas containing natural phenomena of unique or outstanding nature where public access and development is needed;
- Lands meeting clearly documented resource demands such as timber, mineral production, or developed recreation such as winter sports sites;
- Lands committed through contractual agreements for use, purposes, or activities not in concert with the requirements of the Wilderness Act.

Need **Overview:** FSH 1909.12-7.23 directs the Forest Service to “determine the need for an area to be designated as Wilderness through an analysis of the degree to which it contributes to the local and national distribution of Wilderness.” Need is addressed on a national basis and is evaluated in terms of the geographic distribution of areas, representation of landforms and ecosystems, and the presence of wildlife expected to be visible in wilderness. Assessment of need may be divided into two major categories: *biological need* (landform representation and plant/animal biodiversity) and *social need* (outdoor recreation opportunities). Only areas determined to be both capable and available for wilderness were considered in the need evaluation for recommended wilderness. The following summarizes the Need Assessment completed in the revision process and is incorporated here by reference (Boyst 2001).

Social Need: Cordell and Teasley (1997) estimate in the 1994-1995 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment that there were 40.4 million visits to Wilderness in 1995. Visitor use of wilderness areas on National Forest System is forecasted to grow between 0.5 percent and 1.0 percent annually for the next 50 years. Generally, designating additional wilderness acres shifts the pattern of use upwards.

The intensity of use, usually expressed as Recreational Visitor Days (RVD)/acre, is another indicator of wilderness use. By accounting for increased acreage, this measure modifies changes in observed use resulting from new additions to the NWPS. The intensity of overall Forest Service wilderness use has been fairly constant when observed between 1971 and 1993 (Loomis, 1999).

Growth projections by Cordell and Teasley (1997) for activities that commonly occur in wilderness estimate that backpacking is expected to increase 155% by 2040, day hiking by 193%, and wildlife observation and photography by 74%. U.S. Census (USDC, 2000) studies support this overall increase in demand by displaying a +30.6% percent change in population (since 1990) across Colorado and specifically in the following counties: Eagle (+90.0%), Summit (+82.8%), Garfield (+46.1%), Pitkin (+17.5%), and Rio Blanco (-1.1%). Demand for increased wilderness recreation opportunities, as well as developed recreation opportunities, on a local and regional level appears inevitable.

On a regional or state level, the location of wilderness is distributed unevenly across the nation in terms of population. The majority of federal lands are located in the western states and Alaska. While these states account for only about 20% of the nation’s population, they hold more than 95% of the wilderness areas. Twenty percent of the NWPS is found in the Rocky Mountains and thirty-three percent (754,519 acres) of the White River National Forest is designated as wilderness (Cordell, 1990).

Wilderness opportunities in Colorado are fairly well distributed across the western portion of the state and are easily accessible to the population centers of Denver,

Colorado Springs, and Pueblo. Cordell (1990) found the trend that long distance vacations are being replaced by more frequent, close-to-home recreation trips, consequently increasing the importance of recreation opportunities near urban areas. The National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (Cordell, 2000) found that one out of 4 people in the Rocky Mountains enjoys primitive camping, while only 1 in 10 does in the southern and northern regions. Hiking, hiking to a summit, mountain climbing, and rock climbing are about twice as popular in the western region as in the rest of the country.

Federal lands account for a large percentage of the land ownership on the western slope of Colorado and recreationists depend on these lands for unconfined recreation experiences. The State of Colorado does not have designated wilderness. Several counties in the forest's planning area have open space councils that have been successful in acquiring conservation easements for wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. The Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) has recreation leases on several state land parcels adjacent to the forest. While these opportunities are generally increasing, there are also private lands where historic public use has been permitted but is now prohibited.

Within the wilderness areas on the White River National Forest, management actions have been required to reduce the impacts from recreation use and to alleviate capacity issues. Actions range from requiring smaller group sizes (Maroon Bells-Snowmass) to prohibiting camping (Trappers Lake in the Flat Tops Wilderness and Cataract Lake in the Eagles Nest Wilderness) or prohibiting campfires (East Cross Creek in the Holy Cross Wilderness and Trappers Lake in the Flat Tops Wilderness). During the peak season (summer weekends) these areas frequently are crowded and exceed capacity standards. These areas are popular destinations and the addition of new wilderness acres would not necessarily reduce visitor demand for use in these areas. Increases in wilderness acres would certainly increase the overall capacity of the NWPS to accommodate additional visitors over time.

The areas that have been identified as having the highest capability in **Table C-2** also provide the greatest opportunity for providing the pristine outdoor recreation opportunities or meeting the "social" component of need.

Biological Need: The NWPS includes 628 congressionally designated areas (about 105 million acres) on lands managed by the Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the BLM. Although the Forest Service manages 33% of the total NWPS acreage, it manages 62% of the acreage in the lower 48 states. In Alaska's vast wilderness, the most predominant ecoregions are tundra (27%), subtropical (24%), subarctic (18%), and steppe (14%). Particularly under-represented are prairie grassland ecoregions of the Great Plains. Hill and mountain landforms account for about three-fourths of all wilderness areas. Plains and tablelands make up less than 5% (Cordell, et al., 2000).

Wilderness in Colorado has been labeled "rock and ice wilderness" because it is generally at high elevation and features a limited range of plant communities. A review of plant series found on national forest wilderness lands in the Rocky Mountain Region (USDA, 1994) identified alpine and spruce-fir vegetation as covering 90% of the wilderness lands, giving credence to the "rock and ice" label. The White River National Forest analysis of roadless areas capable and available for wilderness prioritized the need

for a number of lower-elevation cover types not well represented on the forest and/or in Region 2 as a whole. These included grass-forb (low elevation), oakbrush, shrub, sagebrush, snowberry, piñon-juniper, and ponderosa pine species. Aspen was not considered an under-represented low elevation cover type because it is found at elevations of up to 10,000 feet on the White River National Forest and it is the third largest vegetation component of existing wilderness (following the spruce/fir and grass-forb cover types). Because of aspen's distribution and elevation range, it does not provide significant vegetative diversity to the existing designated wilderness on the White River National Forest.

Designated wilderness and recommended wilderness will be managed over the long-term with the objective to allow natural processes to operate freely. When appropriate, fire will be managed for resource benefits and plant succession and diversity will occur within the range of natural variability. Since management activities in these areas have little ground disturbance, the native plant community (and diversity) will be buffered from the spread of noxious weeds.

Designation of wilderness at lower elevations (where development pressures are usually the highest) provides secure habitats and sanctuary for species that depend on these ecosystem types. Of the mammal species potentially found on the White River National Forest, the wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) is the most dependent on presence and stability of ecosystems lacking broad scale human influence. While populations of wolverines on the White River National Forest are unknown and historical records are few, conservation strategies recommend that once the presence of wolverines in an area is established, the protection of natal denning habitat from human disturbance is critical for their persistence. Protection of existing wilderness, designation of new wilderness, and/or protection of roadless areas offers the undeveloped refugia required in the long-term and benefits species requiring solitude. Technological advances in over-snow vehicles and increased winter recreation use has the potential to displace wolverines from denning habitat. These advances increase the need to protect remaining habitat in undeveloped areas.

The capable and available roadless areas were evaluated for the potential wilderness areas were identified that meet the highest biological need for under-represented cover types. The following potential wilderness areas were identified as having the highest biological need: Big Ridge, Dome Peak, Red Dirt, Williams Fork, Lower Piney, Sweetwater, Hardscrabble, Red Table, Sloan Peak, Assignment Ridge, and Deep Creek. This is displayed in **Table C-2**.

Wilderness Evaluation

The recommended wilderness evaluation included consideration of the biological and social need aspects described above. Use trends, distance from population centers, and the location of nearby wildernesses were considered. The public involvement process throughout the White River National Forest Plan revision process has been extensive. Public comments ranged from support for specific roadless areas being recommend as wilderness to opposition to any additional wilderness being designated. United States Representative Scott McInnis submitted comments recommending that approximately 16,000 roadless acres be recommended as wilderness (McInnis, 2000). These areas included Black Lakes East and West (19-20), Ute Pass (21b), Acorn Creek (21c), Treasure Mountain (84), North Independence (77), Hunter (75), and No Name (57). U.S. Representative Diana DeGette introduced legislation in 2001 that designates Deep

Creek (23), Assignment Ridge (69), and portions of Sweetwater (15a) and Red Dirt (8a) as wilderness.

**Environmental
Consequences**

The potential environmental consequences and cumulative effects of assigning recommended wilderness and nonwilderness management areas to the roadless inventory are described in Chapter 3, Topic 4 of the FEIS. Tables 115, 117, and 118 found in this section display the percentage of acres assigned to recommended wilderness and nonwilderness prescriptions.

Table C-2
Exceptional values found in capable and available roadless areas on the White River
National Forest

Map #	Name	Adjacent wilderness	Values ranked highly
4	Ripple Creek	Flat Tops	—
5a	Big Ridge to South Fork	Flat Tops	biological need, capability
6	Dome Peak	Flat Tops	biological need
8a	Red Dirt	Flat Tops	biological need
8b	Derby	Flat Tops	capability
9	Williams Fork	None	biological need
12	Lower Piney	Eagles Nest	biological need
15	Sweetwater	Flat Tops	biological need
19	Black Lake West	Eagles Nest	capability
20	Black Lake East	Eagles Nest	—
21b	Ute Pass	Ptarmigan	capability
21c	Acorn Creek	Ptarmigan	capability
23	Deep Creek	None	biological need, capability
28	Freeman Creek	Eagles Nest	—
29	Spraddle Creek	Eagles Nest	capability
34	Tenderfoot	None	—
40a	Mud Springs	Holy Cross	—
40b	Meadow Mountain	Holy Cross	—
44	Hardscrabble	None	biological need
46	Tenmile	None	—
48	Gypsum Creek	None	—
49	Adam Mountain	None	capability
50	Tigiwon	Holy Cross	—
51b	Basalt Mountain	None	—
52	Woods Lake	Holy Cross	—
53a	Red Table	None	biological need
54	Homestake	Holy Cross	—
56	Hoosier Ridge	None	—
57	No Name	Holy Cross	—
59	Chicago Ridge	None	—
61	Sloan Peak	None	biological need
64	Mormon Creek	Holy Cross	—
69	Assigantion Ridge	None	biological need
71	North Woody	None	—
75	Hunter	Hunter-Fryingpan	—
77	North Independence "A"	Hunter-Fryingpan	—
84	Treasure Mountain	Raggeds	capability

Source: Boyst, 2001, Recommended Wilderness Needs Assessment

Only those roadless areas that were found to be capable of and available for wilderness recommendation are included in this appendix. The inventoried roadless areas that were either capable and not available or not capable and not available are listed in Table C-2 and displayed in the FEIS map packet. The detailed analysis is incorporated by reference and is found in the administrative record (Upton 2001).

Table C-3
Ratings of inventoried roadless areas* on the White River National Forest

Map #	Name	Adjacent Wilderness	Capability	Availability
1a	Morapos A	None	Capable	Not Available
1b	Morapos B	None	Not Capable	Not Available
2	Pagoda Peak	None	Not Capable	Not Available
3	Fawn Creek/Little Lost Park	None	Not Capable	Not Available
5b	Big Ridge to South Fork "B"	Flat Tops	Not Capable	Not Available
7	North Elk	None	Not Capable	Not Available
10	West Miller Creek	None	Not Capable	Not Available
11	Middle Miller	None	Not Capable	Not Available
13	Elliot Ridge	Eagles Nest	Not Capable	Not Available
14	Budge's	Flat Tops	Not Capable	Not Available
15b	Sweetwater B	Flat Tops	Not Capable	Not Available
16	Blair Mountain	Flat Tops	Not Capable	Not Available
17a	Elk Creek A	None	Not Capable	Not Available
17b	Elk Creek B	None	Capable	Not Available
18	Three Forks	None	Not Capable	Not Available
21a	Ptarmigan A	Ptarmigan Peak	Not Capable	Not Available
22a	Patterson Creek A	Flat Tops	Not Capable	Not Available
22b	Patterson Creek B	Flat Tops	Not Capable	Not Available
24a	Canyon Creek A	None	Not Capable	Not Available
24b	Canyon Creek B	None	Not Capable	Not Available
25	Berry Creek	None	Not Capable	Not Available
26	Grizzly Creek	None	Capable	Not Available
27	Boulder	Eagles Nest	Not Capable	Not Available
29b	Spraddle Creek B	Eagles Nest	Not Capable	Not Available
30	Piney Lake	Eagles Nest	Not Capable	Not Available
31	Maryland Creek	Eagles Nest	Not Capable	Not Available
32	Willow	Eagles Nest	Not Capable	Not Available
33	Buffer Mountain	None	Not Capable	Not Available
35	Porcupine Creek	None	Not Capable	Not Available
36	East Vail	None	Not Capable	Not Available
37	Corral Creek	None	Not Capable	Not Available
38	Ryan Gulch	Eagles Nest	Not Capable	Not Available
39	Game Creek	None	Not Capable	Not Available
41	Little Grand Mesa	None	Not Capable	Not Available
42	Salt Creek	None	Not Capable	Not Available
43	West Lake Creek	Holy Cross	Not Capable	Not Available
45	West Brush Creek	None	Not Capable	Not Available
47a	Ptarmigan Hill A	None	Not Capable	Not Available
47b	Ptarmigan Hill B	None	Not Capable	Not Available
51a	Basalt Mountain A	None	Not Capable	Not Available
51c	Basalt Mountain C	None	Not Capable	Not Available
55	Mamm Peak	None	Not Capable	Not Available
58	Holy Cross City	Holy Cross	Not Capable	Not Available
60	East Divide/Four Mile Park	None	Not Capable	Not Available
62	Housetop Ridge	None	Capable	Not Available

Map #	Name	Adjacent Wilderness	Capability	Availability
63	Thompson Creek	None	Not Capable	Not Available
65	Wildcat Mountain A	None	Not Capable	Not Available
66	Reno Mountain	None	Not Capable	Not Available
67	Baldy Mountain	None	Not Capable	Not Available
68	Wildcat Mountain B	Hunter Fryingpan	Not Capable	Not Available
70a	Hay Park	Maroon Bells Snowmass	Not Capable	Not Available
70b	Crystal River	Maroon Bells Snowmass	Not Capable	Not Available
72	Wildcat Mountain C	Hunter Fryingpan	Not Capable	Not Available
73	East Willow	None	Not Capable	Not Available
74	Red Mountain	Hunter Fryingpan	Not Capable	Not Available
76	Burnt Mountain	Maroon Bells Snowmass	Not Capable	Not Available
78	McFarlane	Collegiate Peaks	Not Capable	Not Available
80	McClure Pass	Raggeds	Not Capable	Not Available
81	North Independent B	Hunter Fryingpan	Not Capable	Not Available
82	Gallo Hill	Maroon Bells Snowmass	Not Capable	Not Available
83	Ashcroft	Maroon Bells Snowmass	Not Capable	Not Available

Note: * *Inventoried roadless areas that are either capable and not available or not capable and not available.*

Source: *Upton, 2001*

Roadless Area 4 Ripple Creek

Acres	2,026
Ranger district	Blanco
History	This area was identified in the RARE II process in 1977 as a part of Unit 162 and not recommended for wilderness.
Location and access	The unit is located in Garfield County approximately 41 miles east of Meeker. Rio Blanco County Road 8 (Flat Tops Trail Scenic and Historic Byway) lies one-fourth to one-half mile west of the unit and Trappers Lake Road (FDR 205) lies just to the south providing motorized access to the area. There is no motorized access within the area because of steep terrain. The Chinese Wall Trail (FDT 1803) lies to the north and the Lilly Pond Trail (FDT 1811) follows along the southern edge. No Forest trails enter the Ripple Creek unit. The Flat Tops Wilderness borders the unit to the east.
Surroundings	Near the unit are two recreation residences and two lodges, all under special-use permit. There also are two Forest Service campgrounds and six trailheads in the general vicinity. Ripple Creek is adjacent to the 57,492 roadless area Pagoda Peak on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest.
Physical and biological description	<p>The area is characterized by varied topography. Elevations range from about 8,800 feet to 10,000 feet toward the top of Ripple Creek Pass. The terrain is roughly broken, dissected by the forks of Ripple Creek, and ranges in character from gradual slopes to very steep slopes and high ridges.</p> <p>Soils are deep clay loams of volcanic origin over a shale substrate. When saturated, these soils are subject to slippage, particularly at the point of contact with the underlying shale. The entire area is characterized by slumps. Soil disturbance increases the probability of additional soil displacement, especially in years with higher moisture levels in the winter and/or summer.</p> <p>The area receives heavy snowfall through the winter months, with snow cover generally existing from early November through early July. Summers are generally cool with daily afternoon rain showers not unusual. The unit is covered with stands of aspen and their associated understory vegetation, interspersed with open parks, stands of lodgepole pine and mixed spruce-fir (much of which has been beetle-killed) with an understory of spruce-fir regeneration.</p>
Special features or attractions	The Ripple Creek unit has no special features or attractions. The main attractions to the general area are the Flat Tops Wilderness, the Flat Tops Trail Scenic Byway from Meeker to Yampa, Trappers Lake Lodge (built in the early 1900s), the Trappers Lake Campground complex, and Trappers Lake, which offers excellent fishing and is known as the birthplace of the wilderness concept. The surrounding area's scenic beauty attracts many people.

AREA 4 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	No timber sale activity has occurred in the Ripple Creek unit. In the area outside the unit, about 90 acres near the top of Ripple Creek Pass have been treated by timber sale activities that removed trees killed during the 1940s-'50s spruce beetle outbreak. Follow-up timber stand improvements have also occurred. Other timber stands throughout the adjacent area were considered for treatment in the mid-1980s, but harvest was deemed neither economically feasible or environmentally sound using conventional logging systems because of wet, boggy soils and difficult terrain. Since then helicopter logging has been introduced on the Forest so there may be potential at a reduced volume, because much of the standing dead has fallen.
Recreation	<p>Recreation use within the unit is entirely non-motorized. Snowmobile trails border the western and southern portions of the unit. Steep terrain and the limited area available limit recreation use within it. Most use occurs during hunting season, although some dispersed summer use occurs. Other activities include horseback riding, hiking, viewing scenery, dispersed camping, viewing wildlife and fishing in Ripple Creek. There are no outfitter camps, although several outfitters have day-use permits and may travel through the area to reach other camps or to fish, accounting for most of the summer-outfitted use.</p> <p>Recreation resource potential appears to be limited to the development of trails and trailheads to access the area.</p>
Minerals	There are currently no active mining operations. Some exploration for gold likely occurred to the north of the unit because of its proximity to placer gold claims west of County Road 8.
Wildlife	The area provides valuable summer habitat for deer and elk. There appears to be no current need to plan wildlife habitat improvement activities.
Range	The area lies within the Ripple Creek Allotment that has been active since the 1900s and is expected to remain in use. A stock driveway lies about one-half mile north of the unit. Developments in the general area associated with the range program include the sheep corrals at the Chinese Wall /Pagoda Trailhead and a horse pasture and fence used by Ripple Creek Lodge.
Water	There are no water developments within the area and a low potential exists for future development.
Heritage resources	There are no known heritage resources in the area, although the probability of occurrence of sites and isolated finds is high.
Land uses	There are two recreation residences near the area, two special-use lodges, and a reservation for a power withdrawal one-half mile up the Trappers Lake Road. There are no private lands within the area and no active mining claims.

- Fire** The area has displayed a low potential for fires because of cool, wet conditions, although under the right conditions a severe fire could burn in beetle-killed spruce. Under these conditions, spread potential could be high, although normal spread would be limited by wet meadows and scattered aspen stands.
- Fire activities are discussed in the Flat Tops fire management area prescribed natural fire plan. The area is included in the Trappers fire management unit for fuel treatment, including management ignition.
- Insects and disease** Most of the mature Engelmann spruce trees were killed by the spruce beetle epidemic of the 1940s and 1950s. The young, regenerated stand should be resistant to insects and disease for many years.

AREA 4 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>low</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>medium</i>
Manageability	<i>high</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>low</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure.....	<i>low</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>low</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>low</i>
Hiking.....	<i>low</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>N/A</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>N/A</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>high</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>high</i>
Are manageable	<i>high</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>high</i>

AREA 4 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1.	Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	no
2.	Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	no
3.	Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	no
4.	Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	no
5.	Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	no
6.	Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	no

Roadless Area 5a Big Ridge to South Fork

Acres 50,443

Ranger district Blanco

History Most of this area was identified during the RARE II process as Unit 160 with a small portion in Unit 159. It was not recommended for wilderness designation.

Location and access The area is located about 30 miles east of Meeker in Rio Blanco County. Its eastern and southern boundaries lie against the Flat Tops Wilderness, except for the portion of the unit that lies south of the South Fork of the White River where the south boundary is the rim of South Fork Canyon. Private lands, the South Fork Road (County Road 10) and two relatively small, isolated parcels of BLM land border its western boundary. For the portion south of the South Fork, a small drainage named Cliff Creek is the western boundary. Rio Blanco County Road 8 and a strip of private land that parallels County Road 8 (Flat Tops Trail Scenic Byway) makes up the unit's northern boundary.

County Road 8 (Flat Tops Trail Scenic Byway) provides motorized access to the northern part of the unit. County Road 10 (South Fork Road) provides motorized access to the western portion. County Road 12 (Marvine Road) provides motorized access into the center of the area and dead ends at Marvine Campground and trailhead. Forest Road 283 provides access to the Ute and Papoose recreation residences and to the Ute Creek (FDT 1824) and Papoose Creek (FDT 2248) non-motorized trails. There are some roads through private land to the west that come close to the boundary of the unit, but these roads are not open to the general public. There is motorized access to all of the private inholdings. A moderate amount of snowmobile use occurs in the northern portion, but there are no designated snowmobile routes. In addition to the Ute and Papoose Trails, the area is accessed by the following non-motorized trails: Big Ridge (FDT 1820), Bailey Lake (FDT 1825), Hill Creek (FDT 2255), Fowler Creek (FDT 2256), Peltier Lake (FDT 1826), South Fork (FDT 1827), Cliff Lake (FDT 1831), and Spring Cave (FDT 1834). With the exception of the last three, the trails lead into the Flat Tops Wilderness. County Road 10 provides access to the area west of the South Fork River.

Surroundings County Road 8 and private land border the northern portion of the area, east of the South Fork. Its eastern and southern boundaries abut the Flat Tops Wilderness. Private and BLM lands border its western boundary.

Physical and biological description The area is characterized by varied topography, with elevations ranging from about 7,400 feet to 11,000 feet. The terrain is roughly broken and dissected by numerous drainages, and ranges in character from flat, open parks and rolling valley floors to very steep slopes, cliffs, and high ridges.

Soils are predominantly from the Weber Sandstone formation of deep loams with some rock outcroppings.

The unit features a variety of vegetation, including extensive stands of oakbrush on steep slopes above the South Fork of the White River. Lodgepole pine intermixed with aspen dominates the northern portion of the area above County Road 8 with the remainder of the area mostly comprised of spruce-fir stands intermixed with aspen stands and parks.

Special features or attractions The area possesses beautiful scenery and outstanding primitive recreation opportunities. Other attractions are its primitive character, undeveloped nature, and excellent big-game hunting opportunities.

AREA 5A RESOURCE USES

Vegetation Timber sales that thinned about 50 acres of lodgepole pine occurred on Big Ridge near Lost Creek. There is good potential for future timber harvest throughout the area, with high-quality lodgepole pine and aspen existing in the Big Ridge portion of the area and excellent stands of spruce-fir and aspen occurring throughout a large portion of the remainder of the area.

Recreation Recreation use in the area is non-motorized except for snowmobile use in the Big Ridge and West Marvine areas. The Buford-New Castle Road on the western boundary is a marked and groomed snowmobile trail. Off-trail snowmobile use is high in the many large open parks scattered throughout the northwestern part of the unit. Most recreation use occurs during hunting season, although dispersed summer use activities are increasing. In addition to hunting, activities include horseback riding, hiking, viewing scenery, dispersed camping, viewing wildlife, and fishing. These uses are at a moderate-to-high level. Limited mountain biking occurs on some of the trails. At least 12 outfitters operate 46 permitted camps during hunting season; several others have day-use permits. Summer outfitted use is moderate but increasing. Several outfitters have winter-use permits and one is offering winter camping. Two outfitters are permitted to use snowmobiles in the area, one in the West Marvine drainage and one on Big Ridge.

Recreation resource potential appears to be limited to the development of primitive recreation activities.

Minerals There are no active mining, oil and gas leasing, or mineral claims in the unit.

Wildlife The higher-elevation portions of this unit provide valuable summer habitat for deer and elk. Lower-elevation areas, especially those near the valley of the South Fork of the White River, provide fall and early winter habitat for deer and elk. In mild winters, some elk will inhabit these slopes throughout the winter months.

The Hill Creek portion of the area is home to a herd of bighorn sheep that remains here throughout the year.

Several prescribed fires have been ignited in the area to enhance habitat for deer, elk, and bighorn sheep; more are planned.

Range	<p>The area contains all or portions of one sheep allotment and five cattle allotments. These have been active for about 100 years and are expected to remain in use. Associated developments include stock ponds, stock tanks and pipelines, and several miles of fencing. There is also a cow camp on the West Marvine Allotment just outside the unit.</p>
Water	<p>There are two reservoirs adjacent to the area, Bailey Lake and Swede Lake. Peltier Lake may be partially man-made and lies within the area. Several ditches are adjacent to the area in the South Fork, Ute Creek, Papoose, West Marvine, and North Fork drainages.</p>
Fire	<p>In general, the area has a low potential for fire because of cool, wet conditions in the predominant spruce-fir cover type. The exception would be stands killed by the 1940s spruce beetle epidemic—in 1994, a fire burned 3,190 acres in the Ute Creek drainage. In the Big Ridge, West Marvine and Ute/Papoose drainages, large stands of lodgepole pine have seen some fire activity in the past. Where stands of oakbrush and sagebrush are present, the fire-spread potential is high.</p> <p>The unit is considered in the Flat Tops fire management area prescribed natural fire plan. Several areas are included in fire management units (FMU) for fuel treatment, including Big Ridge (Marvine FMU), the east side of the South Fork (Oyster FMU), and the area just south of the South Fork of the White River adjacent to Flat Tops Wilderness (Blair FMU).</p>
Insects and disease	<p>Current problems with insect and disease infestations are minor, but as the lodgepole pine and mixed-conifer stands approach and exceed maturity, this could become a serious problem in the future.</p>
Heritage resources	<p>There are no known heritage resources in the area although the probability of occurrence of sites and isolated finds is high.</p>
Land uses	<p>There are no permitted permanent land uses within this area. There are power withdrawals along the North Fork, Marvine, and South Fork drainages. No private land is found in the unit. There are no active mining claims or other encumbrances.</p>

AREA 5A CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>high</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>high</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>high</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>high</i>
Hunting	<i>high</i>
Fishing	<i>high</i>
Backpacking	<i>high</i>
Hiking	<i>high</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>N/A</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>N/A</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>high</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>high</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 5A AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>*</i>

**Two outfitters are permitted to use snowmobiles in the area, one in the West Marvine drainage and one on Big Ridge.*

Roadless Area 6 Dome Peak

Acres	12,008
Ranger district	Eagle
History	A portion of this area was identified in the RARE II roadless area analysis as “Dome Peak” (9,080 acres).
Location and access	The area is northwest of Burns in Eagle and Routt Counties. FDR 610 (North Derby), 615 (North Cedar Creek), and 915 (Harper Reservoir) provide motorized access. FDT 2034 (Ute-Sunnyside) and FDT1861 (Sunnyside Lakes) provide non-motorized access.
Surroundings	The area is bounded on the west by the Flat Tops Wilderness and by the north and east by national forest, BLM, or private land boundaries. FDR 610 (North Derby) defines the southern boundary. This area is adjacent to the 2,136 Dome Peak roadless area on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from 8,608 feet (Dry Fork of Cabin Creek) to 12,172 feet (Dome Peak). The area falls within the Flat Tops and Williams Fork ecological subsections of the Forest’s landscape character descriptions. These subsections are composed of a broad uplifted plateau composed of uplands and mountains and steeply flanked canyon sideslopes. Processes consist of glaciation and periglaciation with fluvial and colluvial influences, along with landslide deposition. The plateau is a complex of mountain groups, rolling hills and plateau lands, deeply dissected valleys with some scoured bowl-like cirque headwalls, and glaciated ridgelines.</p> <p>Soil taxa consist of Cryoboralfs and Cryochrepts associated with coniferous forests. Cryoborolls are associated with aspen and grass shrub-steppe. Cryumbrepts are typically associated with alpine meadows. Covered by large expanses of primarily dead Engelmann spruce, the forest is broken up by large patches of aspen and open parks. Vegetation along major streams consists of cottonwoods, alders, willows, and other riparian species.</p>
Special features or attractions	The dominant feature in this unit is Dome Peak (12,172 feet). Sunnyside Lakes provide fishing opportunities.

AREA 6 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	A portion of the area was considered in the analysis for the Dome Peak timber sale. At this time, a decision has not been made regarding this sale. As were many areas within the Flat Tops, it was affected by the 1940s-'50s spruce beetle epidemic, and thus numerous dead standing and downed trees are present.
Recreation	Fall hunting season is the primary use, at moderate-to-heavy levels. Stump Park and Cedar Creek receive heavy motorized use during this time. There is limited summer use of the area for hiking, fishing, and horseback riding. There are increasing problems with illegal off-highway vehicle use.
Wildlife	The area is used primarily for deer and elk summer range. Sunnyside Lake is stocked by the Colorado Department of Wildlife (CDOW) and provides fishing opportunities.
Range	The area is part of the Sunnyside active cattle allotment. Usual range improvements, such as stock ponds, salt, and fences are found in the unit.
Other	There are many non-system roads, trails, and ditches (some are illegal) that enter National Forest System lands from private property. Although not active at this time, oil and gas leases have been permitted in this area. A number of 50- to 100-foot clearings have been created to construct timber fences within the area.

AREA 6 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>medium</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>medium</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>high</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>low</i>

AREA 6 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Areas 8a and 8b Red Dirt (8a) and Derby (8b)

Acres	14,935
Ranger district	Eagle
History	Portions of this area were identified in the RARE II roadless area analysis as “Red Dirt” (4,520 acres). Hack Lake, a potential wilderness area on BLM land, is located to the south and west.
Location and access	This area is located west of Burns and north of Dotsero in Eagle and Garfield Counties. FDR 613 (South Derby), 616 (Big Spring), and 611 (Red Dirt Basin) provide motorized access. FDT 2032 (Ute-Sweetwater), 1817 (W Mountain), 2177 (High Basin), 1836 (Bear Park), and 1837 (Canard Creek) provide non-motorized access.
Surroundings	The area is bounded on the west by the Flat Tops Wilderness and on the south and east by national forest, BLM, and private land boundaries. FDR 610 (North Derby) defines the northern boundary. The southwestern portion of this area is adjacent to Hack Lake, BLM land that is under consideration for wilderness designation by U.S. Representative Diana DeGette.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from 7,200 feet (East Fork of Red Dirt Creek) to 11,411 feet (Star Mountain at the wilderness boundary). The area falls within the Flat Tops and Williams Fork ecological subsections of the Forest’s landscape character descriptions. These subsections are composed of a broad uplifted plateau composed of uplands and mountains and steeply flanked canyon sideslopes. Processes consist of glaciation and periglaciation with fluvial and colluvial influences, along with landslide deposition. The plateau is a complex of mountain groups, rolling hills, and plateau lands, deeply dissected valleys with some scoured bowl-like cirque headwalls, and glaciated ridgelines.</p> <p>Soil taxa consist of Cryoborals and Cryochrepts associated with coniferous forests. Cryoborals are associated with aspen and grass shrub-steppe. Cryumbrepts typically are associated with alpine meadows. Covered by large expanses of primarily dead Engelmann spruce, the forest is broken up by large patches of aspen and open parks. Vegetation along the major streams consists of cottonwoods, alders, willows, and other riparian species.</p>
Special features or attractions	The primary attraction is Crescent and Mackinaw Lakes, which are accessed by FDR 613 (South Derby).

AREAS 8A AND 8B RESOURCE USES

<i>Vegetation</i>	Stand-replacement fires occurred in this area in 1975 (Red Dirt Fire, 8,000 acres) and in 1981 (Emerald Fire, 6,000 acres). As were many areas within the Flat Tops, this area was affected by the 1940s-'50s spruce beetle epidemic, and thus numerous dead standing and downed trees are present.
<i>Recreation</i>	The area receives moderate-to-high use in the fall during deer and elk hunting season. In the summer, use is concentrated in the Crescent and Mackinaw Lake area. Recreation opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and limited snowmobiling.
<i>Wildlife</i>	Red Dirt Basin has been identified as critical winter range for deer and elk. Crescent and Mackinaw Lakes are stocked by the CDOW and provide fishing opportunities.
<i>Range</i>	This area is part of the Derby active cattle allotment. Usual range improvements, such as stock ponds, salt, and fences are present.
<i>Special uses</i>	The eastern boundary has several parcels of private property that are currently being used as working ranches. The potential for developing these areas is high. Multiple ditches under special use permit throughout the area provide water to the adjacent ranch lands. In the past, oil and gas leases have been permitted, although no drilling has occurred. Outfitters that use the area are Winterhawk and Schlegal ranches.

AREA 8A CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>medium</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 8A AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

AREA 8B CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>high</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking.....	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>low</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 8B AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 9 Williams Fork

Acres	6,740
Ranger district	Dillon
History	The area was identified in the RARE II analysis as “Williams Peak West” (8,960 acres). The closest wilderness is Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness about three miles to the southeast.
Location and access	The area is located in Summit County east of Heeney and Green Mountain Reservoir. FDR 2950 (William Peak), 2855 (Mumford Gulch), 2850 Way (Cow Camp), 2845 (Shane Gulch), 2840 (Lonesome), and 2600 (Miller Gulch) provide motorized access. There are no system trails within the area.
Surroundings	The area is bounded on the north by the White River National Forest/Arapaho National Forest boundary. The eastern boundary is the ridgeline that also marks the boundary between the two National Forest System, as well as Grand and Summit Counties. The southern and western boundaries are defined by private land and national forest boundaries.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from approximately 8,200 feet to 11,616 feet (Williams Peak). The Indian Peaks/Williams Fork Mountain ecological subsection of the Forest’s landscape character descriptions describes the area. Landforms are the result of complex erosion and deposition from glaciation, periglaciation, and mass-wasting processes. Other landform features include fluvial deposits from the Snake and South Fork of the Williams Rivers. This subsection is composed of high-relief mountains of the intermontaine basin complex. There are also uplifted hills with steep to moderately steep slopes. The stratigraphy and lithology include the exposed core of uplifted mountain ranges composed primarily of Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks, including granites and gneisses; upper Cretaceous interbedded marine shales; and sandstone along the western flank of the Williams Fork Mountains.</p> <p>Vegetation types vary from aspen and grass shrubsteppe on the lower slopes to alpine tundra and meadowlands above treeline. The predominant vegetation types are aspen/grass shrubsteppe and lodgepole pine.</p>
Special features or attractions	The ridgeline along the Williams Fork Mountains is visible from many points in Summit County. This ridgeline is outstanding because of its geologic features, which create a unique landscape character that defines the Lower Blue River valley. Williams Peak and Williams Mountain are major peaks along this ridgeline and offer outstanding views of the Gore Range.

AREA 9 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	The eastern flank of this area contains a small amount of Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. There has been no timber harvesting in this area because of difficult access and the small volume of merchantable timber. At higher elevations there are a few stands of bristlecone pine.
Recreation	This area receives light use throughout the winter and summer months and heavy use during the fall hunting season. Recreation activities in the area include four-wheel drive use, hunting, hiking, camping, hanggliding, and horseback riding. During the winter, the Williams Peak Road (FDR 2590) has a limited amount of snowmobile use.
Wildlife	Most of the area was designated in the 1984 Forest Plan as an emphasis area for big-game winter range. It supports a large herd of elk and moderate deer numbers. Water sources are limited and there is no existing or potential fishery.
Range	The area is part of the Blue Ridge and Big Hole active cattle allotments. The usual range improvements are found within these allotments, including fences and stock ponds.
Other	Throughout the area is a network of roads, trails, fence lines, and water diversions that historically supported local ranches. There are problems with recreationists and private landowners constructing illegal roads and trails. A communications site on Williams Peak has motorized road access during the summer, and either snowcat or snowmobile access during the winter.

AREA 9 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>high</i>
Fishing	<i>N/A</i>
Backpacking	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>low</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>low</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 9 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 12 Lower Piney

Acres	13,416
Ranger district	Holy Cross
History	The Piney roadless area is composed of the South Fork of the Piney River and Piney RARE II areas, which totaled 15,880 acres. Its eastern boundary is the Eagles Nest Wilderness.
Location and access	This area is located northeast of Wolcott in Eagle County. Primitive roads open to motorized travel are FDR 405, 767, 406, 744, and 784. Trails open to motorized use are FDT 1884, 1892, and 1890.
Surroundings	FDR 404 makes up the northern boundary. The eastern boundary abuts the Eagles Nest Wilderness. The southern boundary is defined by FDR 700.2. The western boundary is mainly defined by the national forest boundary. Within the area are five parcels of private land through which the Forest Service does not have easements, including the Marma Lake parcel.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from about 7,800 feet at Piney River to 11,107 feet at Chimney Rock. The area is part of the Hardscrabble and Williams Fork ecological subsections of the Forest's landscape character descriptions, characterized by varied topography. The terrain is roughly broken, dissected by numerous drainages, and ranges in character from flat, open parks and rolling valley floors to very steep slopes and high ridges.</p> <p>Strongly developed soils with a high clay content in the subsurface occur on nearly every level to moderately steep slope. The soils are mostly 40 to 60 inches deep or more to bedrock, have high subsurface rock content and are well drained. Shallow to bedrock soils occur on steep to very steep slopes and are extremely well drained. Soil parent material is derived primarily from interbedded shales and siltstones.</p> <p>Vegetation types include subalpine-fir and Engelmann spruce, and alpine meadows with scree, tundra and snowfields above treeline. At the lowest elevations, aspen and lodgepole pine forests are interspersed with mountain shrublands.</p>
Special features or attractions	Chimney Rock (11,107 feet) is a major peak in this area. The Piney Guard Station, built in 1940 and used by the Forest Service as an administrative site, has the potential to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

AREA 12 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	The Piney timber sale area east of Marma Lake borders the area. Much of the area was used for homesteading about 100 years ago and remnants of logging operations are visible.
Recreation	Fall is the primary-use season and the area is heavily hunted for elk and deer. During this season, illegal OHV and jeep trails are increasingly pioneered. System and non-system trails and roads are infrequently used throughout the year for motorized and non-motorized activities, including hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, motorcycling, jeep touring, and hunting.
Wildlife	The area offers excellent summer range for big game. The area supports a large herd of elk and a moderate number of deer.
Range	This area is an active part of the South Piney, South Fork, and Slate Allotments that are permitted for sheep and cattle grazing.
Other	The current landowner manages most of the private property within the area as a large ranch and wildlife reserve. The potential for development is high and would significantly affect the area. The current trail and road infrastructure is fragmented through this area by a lack of easements through private inholdings.

AREA 12 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>medium</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>medium</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>high</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>high</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 12 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 15 Sweetwater

Acres	11,931
Ranger district	Eagle
History	The area was previously identified as “Sweetwater” in the RARE II analysis (14,470 acres).
Location and access	The area is located northwest of Dotsero in Garfield County. FDR 150 is a cherry-stemmed road into its northern portion. Motorized use of this road and two-wheeled motorized use on FDT 1855 (Cross Creek), 2031 (Ute-Deep Trail), and 1852 (Johnson Pasture) is permitted. FDT 1854 has motorized use permitted from the junction with FDT 1856 west. Non-motorized access also occurs from FDT 1839 (Nellie's), 2036 (Burnt Park), 2031 (Sweetwater Nature), 2033 (Coburn Rim), 2037 (Sam's Pond), and 2029 (Harold's). Deep Lake is located in the northwestern portion of the unit.
Surroundings	The area is bounded on the north by Flat Tops Wilderness and on the east by private land and national forest boundaries. The western boundary is defined by a road system developed for the Deep Creek timber sales. A portion of the eastern boundary is adjacent to the Hack Lake area. Hack Lake is managed by the BLM and is being considered for wilderness designation.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from 7,709 feet at Sweetwater Lake to 10,809 feet (unnamed peak at the head of Cross Creek). The area falls within the Flat Tops ecological subsection of the Forest’s landscape character descriptions. This subsection is composed of a broad uplifted plateau composed of uplands and mountains and steeply flanked canyon sideslopes. Processes consist of glaciation and periglaciation with fluvial and colluvial influences, along with landslide deposition. The plateau is a complex of mountain groups, rolling hills, and plateau lands, deeply dissected valleys with some scoured bowl-like cirque headwalls, and glaciated ridgelines.</p> <p>Soil taxa consist of Cryoboralfs and Cryochrepts associated with coniferous forests. Cryoborolls are associated with aspen and grass-shrub steppe. Cryumbrepts are typically associated with alpine meadows.</p> <p>Species include Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, aspen, gamble oak, alpine meadows, and grass-shrub steppe. There is evidence of a previous spruce beetle infestation. Dead spruce trees are scattered across the plateau.</p>
Special features or attractions	Sweetwater Resort is the primary attraction near the area. The resort is located on private property and consists of a lodge, cabins, and restaurant that operate during the summer and fall seasons.

AREA 15 RESOURCE USES

<i>Vegetation</i>	A network of timber sale roads from the Tenmile, Ute, and Cross Creek sales defines the southwestern boundary of the area. As were many areas in the Flat Tops, this area was affected by the 1940s-'50s spruce beetle epidemic, and thus numerous dead standing and downed trees are present.
<i>Recreation</i>	The primary recreation-use season is autumn. Big-game hunting pressure is moderate to heavy. Summer use is light and consists of foot and horse travel.
<i>Wildlife</i>	The area is used primarily as summer range for elk and deer. Much of the area has also been identified as critical winter habitat for elk and deer. Sweetwater Lake is stocked by the CDOW and provides fishing opportunities.
<i>Range</i>	This area is part of the Sweetwater vacant allotment and the Lake Creek/Deep Creek active cattle allotment. Usual range improvements, such as stock ponds, salt, and fences are present.
<i>Other</i>	Anderson Camps, AJ Brink, Rick Hummel, Colorado High Guides, and 7W Guest Ranch provide outfitter-guide services. Much of the private property to the east of this area has been subdivided into 35-acre parcels.

AREA 15 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>medium</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>medium</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>low</i>

AREA 15 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Areas 19-20

Black Lake West (19) and Black Lake East (20)

Acres	1,644
Ranger district	Dillon
History	The Black Lakes area was identified in the RARE II analysis as Unit 350.
Location and access	The areas are located northwest of Silverthorne in Summit County. Motorized access is limited to a cherry-stemmed private road that does not provide public access. FDR 1695 (Brush Creek) provides motorized access to the eastern boundary. FDT 60 provides non-motorized access to the southern portion of the units.
Surroundings	These units are bounded by Eagles Nest Wilderness to the south and by private land to the north. Black Lake West is bounded on the west by the Eagles Nest Wilderness boundary and on the east by the private Black Lakes road. Black Lake East is bounded on the west by the private Black Lakes road and on the east by the private property boundary.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from about 8,600 feet at Otter Creek to 9,600 feet along the wilderness boundary. The Gore/Mosquito Ranges ecological subsection of the Forest's landscape character descriptions describes the area. Landform features include scoured bowl-like cirque headwalls and floors, U-shaped valleys, couloirs, talus slopes, and rounded mountain slopes. This subsection is composed of high-relief mountains trending north to south. Dominant geomorphic processes include glaciation and periglaciation. Secondary fluvial stream deposition from the Blue and Swan Rivers along with Tenmile and Gore Creeks has built up the river basins. The stratigraphy and lithology include uplifted mountain ranges composed of predominantly Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks, including granites and gneisses.</p> <p>Soil taxa associated with this subsection include Cryumbrepts at the highest elevations along summits and cirque lands, Cryochrepts and Cryoboralfs along the flanks of the ranges, and Cryoborolls along the valleys.</p> <p>Vegetation includes subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce, and alpine meadows with scree, tundra, and snowfields above treeline. At the lower elevations, aspen and lodgepole pine forests are interspersed with mountain shrublands.</p>
Special features or attractions	There are no major peaks or other features in these areas. The primary attraction to this area is upper and lower Black Lakes, which are located on private property outside of the units.

AREAS 19 AND 20 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	There has been no vegetation treatment on National Forest System lands in these areas. Much of the lower-elevation vegetation consists of dense stands of lodgepole pine in younger age classes.
Recreation	Use in these areas is limited year-round by difficult access. Primary use is during the fall hunting season. During this time, hunters access the area from FDR 1695 and private property.
Wildlife	Black Lake East was identified in the 1984 Forest Plan as an area with critical big game winter range. This area supports a fairly large herd of elk and a moderately-sized deer herd during the winter. Fishing near the area is limited to Black Lakes (private property) and Otter and Brush Creeks.
Range	These areas are part of the active Black Creek cattle allotment. Usual range improvements, including fence lines and stock ponds, may be found.
Other	At one time, FDR 1695 (Brush Creek Road) was located within Black Lake East. The old roadbed is currently used to access Lost Lake within Eagles Nest Wilderness.

AREA 19 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>high</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 19 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

AREA 20 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>medium</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>low</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>high</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 20 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would Wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Areas 21b and 21c Ute Pass (21b) and Acorn Creek (21c)

Acres	2,717
Ranger district	Dillon
History	These areas were not identified in the RARE II analysis as being roadless. Portions of the areas adjoin the Williams Fork roadless area (35,963 acres) identified in the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest Plan Revision as being capable and available for wilderness designation.
Location and access	These areas are located north and east of Silverthorne in Summit County. County Road 15 (Ute Pass) to the north and Interstate 70 to the east provide motorized access. There is no public access along FDR 1908 (Bushee Creek). Forest development trails include Ute Peak, Ute Pass, Acorn Creek, Ptarmigan Peak (69), and Ptarmigan Pass (30). Several non-system trails access the areas from private property in the Acorn Creek drainage. Public access and parking is available at Ute Pass and Acorn Creek.
Surroundings	The areas surround Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness on three sides. They are bounded on the west by US Highway 9, on the north by County Road 15, and on the southeast by Interstate 70.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from about 8,600 feet (Acorn Creek) to 12,303 feet (Ute Peak). The Indian Peaks/Williams Fork Mountain ecological subsection of the Forest's landscape character description describes the areas. Landforms are the result of complex erosion and deposition from glaciation, periglaciation, and mass-wasting processes. Other landform features include fluvial deposits from the Snake and South Fork of the Williams Rivers. This subsection is composed of high-relief mountains of the intermontaine basin complex. There are also uplifted hills with steep to moderately steep slopes. The stratigraphy and lithology include the exposed core of uplifted mountain range composed predominantly of Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks, including granites and gneisses; upper Cretaceous interbedded marine shales; and sandstone along the western flank of the Williams Fork Mountains.</p> <p>Vegetation types vary from aspen and grass shrubsteppe on the lower slopes to alpine tundra and meadowlands above treeline. The predominant vegetation types in these areas are aspen/grass shrubsteppe and lodgepole pine.</p>
Special features or attractions	The major peak in the area is Ute Peak. The Williams Fork ridgeline offers outstanding views of the Gore Range. The area above the Eisenhower Tunnel is a "land bridge," providing a wildlife travel corridor over Interstate 70.

AREAS 21B AND 21C RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	Vegetation management in these areas has been limited to select harvesting associated with nineteenth-century homesteading, ranching, and fire occurrence. The steep south-facing slopes combined with the grass shrubsteppe have a fairly frequent fire interval.
Recreation	The areas receive low-to-moderate use year-round. The south facing slopes offer backcountry access earlier than the surrounding areas. The close proximity of Silverthorne serves to give easy access to many homeowners in the vicinity. Recreation activities include hiking, horseback riding, camping, hunting, mountain biking, fishing, and cross-country skiing. Snowmobile use is limited by the southern exposure and limited access. Hunting pressure is high from the Acorn Creek drainage.
Wildlife	The CDOW has identified the South Fork area as potential wolverine habitat. The lower portion of the Acorn Creek drainage was identified in the 1984 Forest Plan as being excellent winter range for elk and deer. The higher elevations also support a large herd of elk and a moderately sized herd of deer.
Range	The area is part of the Big Hole, Acorn (vacant), Pioneer (vacant), and Ptarmigan (vacant) cattle allotments. The usual range improvements are found within these allotments, including fences and stock ponds.
Other	The areas include a network of roads, trails, fence lines, and water diversions that historically supported local ranches. There are problems with recreationists and private land owners constructing illegal roads and trails. Bar T and Eagles Nest Equestrian Center are outfitters that frequent the area during hunting season. J Bower Stables is located on private property, but uses a network of non-system trails on National Forest System lands.

AREA 21B CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>high</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>medium</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>N/A</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>low</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>low</i>

AREA 21B AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

AREA 21C CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>high</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>N/A</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>low</i>

AREA 21C AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 23

Deep Creek

Acres	10,812
Ranger district	Eagle
History	Portions of the area were identified in the RARE II analysis as Deep Creek roadless area (11,060 acres).
Location and access	The area is located northwest of Dotsero in Garfield County about three miles south of the Flat Tops Wilderness. There are no forest development roads in the unit. Access is primarily by FDT 1852 (Johnson Pasture), 2031 (Ute-Deep), and a non-system trail (Deep Creek). Two-wheeled motorized travel is permitted only on FDT 1852. Deep Lake is located in the northwestern portion of the unit.
Surroundings	The area is bounded on the southwest by FDR 600 (Coffee Pot Road) and on the northeast by FDR 618 (Jack Springs Road). The eastern margin is defined by the national forest and BLM boundaries. Representatives McInnis and DeGette have stated their support for considering the Deep Creek roadless area (both national forest and BLM lands) as wilderness.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from 7,200 feet (Deep Creek) to 10,000 feet (Deep Creek Overlook). The area falls within the Flat Tops ecological subsection of the Forest's landscape character descriptions. This subsection is composed of a broad uplifted plateau of uplands and mountains and steeply flanked canyon sideslopes. Processes consist of glaciation and periglaciation with fluvial and colluvial influences, along with landslide deposition. The dominant feature of this area is the Deep Creek Canyon. This 2,000-foot deep, mile-wide canyon starts just below Deep Lake and continues to deepen and widen until ending just before Deep Creek empties into the Colorado River.</p> <p>Soil taxa consist of Cryoboralfs and Cryochrepts associated with coniferous forests. Cryoborolls are associated with aspen and grass shrub-steppe. Cryumbrepts are typically associated with alpine meadows.</p> <p>Vegetation in this area is sharply divided. Douglas-fir dominates the entire canyon below the rim. Open meadows occur on the uplands with stands of spruce-fir. Standing dead spruce trees are evidence of the 1940s beetle infestation.</p>
Special features or attractions	This unit has many significant attractions. Deep Creek Canyon has been proposed as a Research Natural Area (RNA), while Deep Creek has been proposed for wild and scenic river designation. The area also has regional significance because of its high concentration of caves—more than 40 caves have been identified in Deep Creek Canyon. Groaning Cave is the longest explored cave in Colorado.

AREA 23 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	A network of timber sale roads from the Tenmile, Ute, and Cross Creek sales defines the northeastern boundary. As were many areas within the Flat Tops, this area was affected by the 1940s-'50s spruce beetle epidemic, and thus numerous dead standing and downed trees are present. The northwestern portion of the unit contains old roadbeds from salvage timber sales related to the beetle kill.
Recreation	Fall is the primary recreation-use season. Big-game hunting pressure is moderate to heavy. Summer use is light because of steep terrain and the lack of trails. There are recreation opportunities for hunting, horseback riding, four-wheel-drive use (around the area's perimeter), viewing scenery, and hiking. Caving and off-trail hiking also occur in the canyon.
Wildlife	This area is used primarily for deer and elk summer range. A transplanted herd of bighorn sheep has established itself in the area. Fishing opportunities are limited to Deep Lake and Deep Creek.
Range	The area is part of the Deep Creek and Coffee Pot active sheep allotments and the Lake Creek/Deep Creek active cattle allotment. Usual range improvements, such as stock ponds, salt, and fences are present.
Other	There is a proposed limestone quarry on the southeastern boundary. The southeastern portion of the area has been withdrawn from mineral entry to protect cave resources.

AREA 23 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>high</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>medium</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>high</i>
Special features	<i>high</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>high</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>high</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>high</i>
Are manageable	<i>high</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 23 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 28

Freeman Creek

Acres	890
Ranger district	Holy Cross
History	<p>The Freeman Creek roadless area was not identified in the RARE II inventory. When Eagles Nest Wilderness was designated in 1976, this area was open to motorized use and the boundary was cherry-stemmed to allow that use to continue. With increased hunting pressure and use in the Piney Lake area, the management of this single-lane primitive road became increasingly problematic over time and the road was closed for public safety and resource concerns in the 1980s.</p>
Location and access	<p>This area is located north of Vail in Eagle County. FDR 700 is a primitive road that provides the primary access. Piney River Ranch, a resort operated by Vail Associates, is located on private property on the northeastern boundary.</p>
Surroundings	<p>The unit's northern boundary is the Eagles Nest Wilderness, the southern boundary is FDR 701, and the western boundary is defined by private land.</p>
Physical and biological description	<p>The elevation is approximately 9,200 feet at Dickson Creek. Landforms associated with the area are high- and low-relief mountain slopes described under the Hardscrabble ecological subsection of the Forest's landscape character descriptions.</p> <p>Soils fall within the Leadville Family of soils with five to 40 percent slopes. Soils are deep and well drained and typically covered with a mat of lodgepole pine litter and duff. The surface layer is a brown cobbly loam about two inches thick. The subsoil is a pink cobbly clay loam greater than 45 inches thick.</p> <p>Vegetation types consist primarily of lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and aspen. A large lower-montane willow carr has been identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program as significant and in relatively good condition.</p>
Special features or attractions	<p>Nearby dispersed areas adjacent to the primitive roads accessing these areas are very popular for camping because the broad open valley allows many opportunities for car camping in a primitive setting near a water source.</p>

AREA 28 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	The southwestern boundary was clearcut recently as part of the Dickson Creek timber sale.
Recreation	This area has a heavy summer and fall recreation emphasis because of its close proximity to the town of Vail. FDR 700 is a major transportation corridor for visitors to Piney River Ranch. There is extensive camping, hiking, fishing, mountain biking, and horseback riding along the road, trail, and water corridors in these sections. These areas also have extensive big-game hunting use in the fall. FDR 410 has been closed to motorized travel for many years and currently is managed as a non-motorized trail. Piney River Ranch has permits for various guided activities in this area, including snowmobiling, horseback riding, hunting, and fishing.
Wildlife	The area is classified by the CDOW as elk and deer summer range. A low amount of elk calving occurs in the surrounding area, generally associated with aspen and mixed conifer stands adjacent to natural meadows and drainages.
Range	The area is an active part of the Red and White Allotment that is permitted for sheep grazing.
Other	Three private parcels border the area. The northern parcel has the highest potential for development.

AREA 28 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>medium</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>medium</i>
Manageability	<i>high</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>medium</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>high</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>high</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>high</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>high</i>

AREA 28 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 29 Spraddle Creek

Acres	874
Ranger district	Holy Cross
History	The Spraddle Creek roadless area is composed of the Spraddle Creek and Middle Creek RARE II areas totaling 9,460 acres.
Location and access	This area is located just north of Vail in Eagle County. FDR 737 is a primitive road south of the area and is open to motorized travel. Nearby trails open to motorized use are FDT 1880 and 2135.
Surroundings	The area is bounded on the south by Interstate 70, the town of Vail, and by national forest boundaries. FDR 700 defines the western boundary. FDR 719 and the Eagles Nest Wilderness define the northern boundary. The eastern boundary is adjacent to the Eagles Nest Wilderness.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from about 8,500 feet (FDR 700) to 12,136 feet (Bald Mountain). The area is characterized by varied topography. It is described in the Mosquito-Gore Range ecological subsection of the Forest's landscape character descriptions. Associated landforms are high- and low-relief mountain slopes at middle and lower elevations.</p> <p>Soils are from the Scout-Leadville Family of soils with five to 40 percent slopes. This corresponds to back slopes, shoulders, and benches formed in colluvium and residuum from sandstone. The soils are deep and well drained and are covered with dead stem-wood.</p> <p>Vegetation types are primarily Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. Lower-elevation slopes also contain lodgepole pine and decadent aspen stands.</p>
Special features or attractions	Bald Mountain (12,136 feet) is a major attraction and the ridgeline that defines the boundary of Eagles Nest Wilderness is highly visible. When Eagles Nest Wilderness was designated in 1976, only a portion of the peak was in wilderness. Over time, having a portion of the peak in wilderness has generated management issues and visitor confusion on appropriate uses of the area. The newly constructed Eiseman Hut, part of the 10th Mountain Hut Association system, is located on the northern boundary of this area.

AREA 29 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	The northwestern road system that bounds this area was constructed for logging in the late 1940s. The area experienced extensive logging, although substantial regeneration has taken place.
Recreation	The area has a heavy recreation emphasis throughout the year because of its close proximity to Vail. Middle Creek (FDT 2135), a popular mountain bike trail accessed from the Lost Lake road system, provides a lengthy loop ride. Spraddle Creek Ranch is permitted to offer horseback riding and uses and maintains a permitted system of trails. The stables for the ranch are located on National Forest System lands near FDR 737. This area is also used for cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, four-wheel-drive use, motorcycling, and hunting.
Wildlife	This area is classified by the CDOW as elk and deer summer range. A low amount of elk calving occurs in relatively snow-free areas along the bottoms of Middle Creek and the south fork of Red Sandstone Creek. Mountain goats and bighorn sheep are also present in the general area.
Range	This area is an active part of the Red and White Allotment that is under permit for sheep grazing.
Other	Spraddle Creek subdivision, a gated community, was constructed in 1995 on private property adjacent to the area. The potential is high for increased use and user-created non-system trail construction. Spraddle Creek Ranches reports increased conflicting uses of this limited area.

AREA 29 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>high</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>N/A</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>low</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>low</i>

AREA 29 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 34 Tenderfoot

Acres	11,075
Ranger district	Dillon
History	This area was not identified as roadless in the RARE II roadless area analysis. Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness is the closest wilderness and is approximately one-half mile to the north.
Location and access	This area is located east of Silverthorne and Dillon and north of Keystone in Summit County. FDR 66 (Frey Gulch), 65 (Tenderfoot), and 66.2 (Frey Gulch Way) provide motorized access. FDT 76 (Tenderfoot) and Oro Grande Ditch Trail provide non-motorized access. There is also a network of non-system trails that follows the ridgeline from Loveland Pass.
Surroundings	The area is bounded on the north by Interstate 70 and on the east by the Continental Divide and US Highway 6. The powerline corridor that parallels Highway 6 forms the western boundary. The Frey Gulch timber sale treatment areas define the southern boundary.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from approximately 9,400 feet at Straight Creek to 12,701 feet on the Continental Divide. The Indian Peaks/Williams Fork Mountain ecological subsection of the Forest's landscape character descriptions describes the area. Landforms are the result of complex erosion and deposition from glaciation, periglaciation, and mass-wasting processes. Other landform features include fluvial deposits from the Snake and South Fork of the Williams Rivers. This subsection is composed of high-relief mountains of the intermontaine basin complex. There are also uplifted hills with steep to moderately steep slopes. The stratigraphy and lithology include the exposed core of an uplifted mountain range composed predominantly of Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks, including granites and gneisses; upper Cretaceous interbedded marine shales; and sandstone along the western flank of the Williams Fork Mountains.</p> <p>Vegetation types vary from lodgepole pine at lower elevations to Engelmann spruce-subalpine fir at higher elevations. Above treeline are alpine tundra and meadows.</p>
Special features or attractions	The area contains portions of the proposed Porcupine RNA. The Continental Divide follows the eastern boundary. Tenderfoot Mountain is the only major peak in this area and it is found below treeline.

AREA 34 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	The Frey Gulch timber sale defines the southern boundary of this area. Mountain pine beetles have been active in this area and both dead and live trees were cut in this timber sale. The Tenderfoot roadless area has been used for forest product sales, such as posts and poles, and fuelwood collection.
Recreation	The primary use of this area results from day use at Keystone Resort. Recreation activities include hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, four-wheel-drive use, and dispersed camping. There is a low amount of snowmobiling. Pass Lake, near Loveland Pass, receives a high amount of use during the summer for hiking and viewing scenery. Loveland Pass also serves as a winter trailhead for snowboarders.
Wildlife	The western side of Tenderfoot Mountain was identified in the 1984 Forest Plan as critical winter range for big game. This area supports a large herd of elk and a moderate number of deer. The rest of the unit is used as summer and transition range by elk and deer.
Range	This area is part of the Tenderfoot vacant cattle allotment. The usual range improvements are found within these allotments, including fences and stock ponds.
Other	Private property parcels in this area are owned by the Denver Water Board and have a low development potential. Outfitter/guides operating in this area include Keystone Stables, which offers summer horseback riding. There is a microwave repeater with jeep road access (not shown on the map) located southwest of Tenderfoot Mountain.

AREA 34 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>high</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>high</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 34 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Areas 40a and 40b Mud Springs (40a) and Meadow Mountain (40b)

<i>Acres</i>	5,661
<i>Ranger district</i>	Holy Cross
<i>History</i>	A portion of the Meadow Mountain roadless area was identified in the Holy Cross RARE II analysis (34,240 acres). Holy Cross Wilderness is adjacent to the southern boundary.
<i>Location and access</i>	These areas are located south of Avon in Eagle County. FDT 2127 (Grouse Creek), FDT 2129 (West Grouse), FDT 2128 (Martin), FDR 748 (Meadow Mountain), and FDR 790 (Grouse) provide access. Non-system trails—locally known as Whiskey Creek, Stone Creek, Paulie's Plunge, and Paulie's Sister—and the Lionshead Jeep Road (711W) transect the areas. Mud Springs (40A) is located between Arrowhead and Beaver Creek ski areas. Meadow Mountain (40B) is located in the Grouse Creek drainage.
<i>Surroundings</i>	The town of Avon, the community of Eagle-Vail, and Interstate 70 define the northern and eastern boundaries of these areas. The western boundary is the Beaver Creek ski area and the southern boundary is the Holy Cross Wilderness.
<i>Physical and biological description</i>	<p>Elevations range from 7,226 feet (Dowd Junction) to 11,073 feet (an unnamed peak southeast of Grouse Lake). The areas are described in the Sawatch ecological subsection of the Forest's landscape character descriptions. This subsection is composed of high-relief mountains shaped by the erosional processes of glaciation and periglaciation along with secondary fluvial and colluvial depositional processes.</p> <p>Soil taxa are composed of Cryochrepts, Cryoboralfs, Cryumbrepts, and Cryoborolls. The dominant vegetation type is spruce-fir forest, followed by grassland, meadow, and lodgepole pine.</p>
<i>Special features or attractions</i>	There are no significant peaks or attractions in these units. Grouse and Waterdog Lakes, which are located nearby in the Holy Cross Wilderness, are backcountry destinations.

AREAS 40A AND 40B RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	These areas have had a variety of vegetation treatments ranging from select-tree harvesting by early homesteaders to clearcutting for development of the now-abandoned Meadow Mountain ski area.
Recreation	The close proximity of the units to Vail, Avon, and Minturn makes them ideal for year-round recreation. During the Winter, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, and snowshoers use FDR 748 and 790. During the summer season, all roads and trails are used by hikers. Mountain biking occurs heavily on FDR 748 and throughout a network of non-system trails branching from this road system and the Beaver Creek ski area. This entire area is also used during the fall hunting season. During that period, the trailheads are usually packed with horse trailers.
Wildlife	Elk that are seasonally present in the units belong to the Dowd Junction-Two Elk Creek Herd. The Whiskey and Stone Creek drainages have been identified as critical elk calving areas.
Range	These areas are part of the Meadow Mountain sheep allotment that is used on an annual basis.
Other	<p>The town of Minturn has submitted several proposals for development of the Martin Creek area. The privately owned Bolts Lake parcel also has potential for development. There is a Superfund mining cleanup site near the southeastern boundary of the area.</p> <p>Other signs of historic use include an isolated cabin called the “Line Shack” and remnants of past grazing operations, including several irrigation ditches.</p>

AREA 40A CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>medium</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>medium</i>
Manageability	<i>low</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>low</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>low</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>low</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>low</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 40A AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

AREA 40B CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>medium</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>medium</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 40B AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 44 Hardscrabble

Acres	11,746
Ranger district	Eagle
History	A portion of this area was identified in the RARE II analysis as Hardscrabble roadless area (9,300 acres).
Location and access	The area is located south of Eagle and Gypsum in Eagle County about six miles west of Holy Cross Wilderness. FDR 412 (Gypsum Creek) provides motorized access into its western portion. FDT 2222 (West Hardscrabble), 1865 (Dry Miller), and 1864 (Yates Gulch) provide non-motorized access.
Surroundings	The area is bounded on the southwest by FDR 412 (Gypsum Creek), FDR 413 to the south and east, and a system of timber sale roads on Hardscrabble to the northeast. The northern boundary is defined by national forest and BLM boundaries.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from 7,600 feet (Gypsum Creek) to 10,499 feet (Hardscrabble Mountain). The area falls within the Hardscrabble ecological subsection of the Forest's landscape character descriptions. The area is characterized by high-relief mountains and hills. Glaciation and periglaciation with fluvial and colluvial influences and some mass-wasting deposition processes define the landform.</p> <p>Soil taxa include Cryoboralfs, Cryorthents, Cryumbrepts and Cryoborolls.</p> <p>Most of the area is covered with Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. Lodgepole pine occurs on the slopes of Red Table Mountain. Some blue spruce is present along Gypsum Creek, but is mostly found on private land.</p>
Special features or attractions	Hardscrabble Mountain is the highest peak in the area. The limited road and trail access to this area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The lack of public access to Gypsum Creek detracts from the opportunities for fishing along its shores.

AREA 44 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	A network of timber sale roads from the Hardscrabble timber sale defines the northern boundary of this area.
Recreation	Overall, summer use in the area is low with opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Increased use of the area has led to increased conflicts between recreation users. Several miles of roads in the northern part of the unit have been obliterated. Motorized users continue to pioneer illegal trails and roads in the area. The area receives a moderate amount of hunting pressure during the fall.
Wildlife	Deer and elk graze this area during the summer months and portions of the area are used as winter range. Deer graze the lower and steeper bare slopes during the winter months. There is no existing or potential fishery within the area.
Range	The area is part of the Gypsum Creek active cattle allotment. Usual range improvements, such as stock ponds, salt, and fences are present.
Special uses	Copper King, an unpatented mining claim, is located within the unit. Currently it is not operating.

AREA 44 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>medium</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>high</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>low</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 44 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 46

Tenmile

Acres 6,573

Ranger district Dillon

History This area was identified in the RARE II roadless area analysis as the Tenmile roadless area (28,200 acres).

Location and access The unit is located south of Frisco and west of Breckenridge in Summit County. The Eagles Nest Wilderness is about one-half mile to the north (across Interstate 70). Motorized access is provided by FDR 1000 (Miners Creek), 1002 (Masontown), 751 (Breckenridge ski area), 803 (Crystal Creek), 851 (McCullough Gulch), 850 (Blue Lakes), 1178 (Mayflower Gulch), 3 (North Barton), 290 (Mohawk Lake), and County Road 800 (Spruce Creek). There is also motorized access from the McDill subdivision on the southeastern boundary. County Road 950 (Gold Hill) and Wheeler Flats provide trailhead access along the northern end of the unit. There is no motorized trail access. FDT 38 (Miners Creek/CO Trail), 44 (Crystal Lake), 45 (Peaks), 58 (Spruce Creek), 58.1A (Mayflower Lakes), 79 (Gold Hill), 80 (Burro) and 39 (Wheeler National Recreation Trail) provide non-motorized trail access. The Vail Pass/Tenmile Canyon bike path provides access to the eastern side.

Surroundings The area is bounded to the north by Frisco, to the east by private property and US Highway 9, to the west by Interstate 70, and to the south by the Continental Divide and the Pike-San Isabel and White River National Forest boundaries. The AMAX mine is located on the southwestern boundary.

Physical and biological description Elevations range from about 9,600 feet to 14,265 feet (Quandary Peak). The Gore/Mosquito Ranges ecological subsection of the Forest's landscape character description describes this area. Landform features include scoured bowl-like cirque headwalls and floors, U-shaped valleys, couloirs, talus slopes, and rounded mountain slopes. This subsection is composed of north-south-laying high-relief mountains. Dominant geomorphic processes include glaciation and periglaciation. Secondary fluvial stream deposition from the Blue and Swan Rivers along with Tenmile and Gore Creeks have built up the river basins. The stratigraphy and lithology include uplifted mountain ranges composed of predominantly Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks, including granites and gneisses.

Soil taxa associated with this subsection include Cryumbrepts at the highest elevations along summits and cirque lands, Cryochrepts and Cryoboralfs along the flanks of the ranges, and Cryoborolls along the valleys.

Vegetation includes subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce, and alpine meadows with scree, tundra, and snowfields above treeline. At the lowest elevations, aspen and lodgepole pine forests are interspersed with mountain shrublands.

**Special features
or attractions**

Despite the many roads that access the periphery of this area, the majority of the unit is unroaded. Major peaks in the area include Quandary Peak, Fletcher Mountain, North Star Mountain, Pacific Peak, Crystal Peak, Mount Helen, Peak 10, Peak 9, Peak 8, Peak 7, Peak 6, Peak 5, Peak 4, Peak 3, Tenmile Peak, and Peak 1. There are abundant water resources including Blue, Mohawk, Mayflower, Crystal, and Rainbow Lakes. Most drainages have year-round streamflow.

AREA 46 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	More than 50 percent of this unit is above treeline and is composed of the craggy peaks of the Tenmile Range. There has been select timber harvesting throughout the area to support the mining industry. Around the periphery, the North and South Barton timber sales harvested Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir and the Ophir Mountain timber sale harvested lodgepole pine. Miners Creek timber sale harvested lodgepole pine killed by a mountain pine beetle outbreak.
Recreation	Recreation use is heavy during the summer and winter seasons, but is low in the fall during hunting season. Much of the use stems from the Breckenridge ski area. Activities include hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, fishing, and camping. There are problems with illegal snowmobile use in the Ophir Mountain area. Illegal non-system trails have been created in the Peak 7, Miners Creek, and Breckenridge area for hiking and mountain biking. Francie's Cabin, part of the Summit Hut Association system, is near the unit's eastern boundary.
Wildlife	The area has been identified by the CDOW as potential lynx habitat. Bighorn sheep and mountain goats are found along the Tenmile ridgeline. Big game (elk, deer, and bear) use the lower elevations for summer and transition range. There have been problems with nearby homeowners attracting bears by improperly storing garbage and birdseed. Blue Lakes is stocked by the CDOW. Miners Creek is also a popular fishing area.
Range	This area is part of several miscellaneous allotments for recreational stock grazing. Evidence of more intensive grazing, such as fences as stock ponds, may be found.
Other	The U.S. Army has a memorandum of understanding with the Forest to perform winter maneuvers within the area. Numerous outfitters and guides are permitted to lead mountain biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing trips. Near Breckenridge there have been problems with illegal residential squatting on National Forest System lands. Throughout the area are isolated cabins and historic mining structures, including the Mohawk Lake sites owned by the cities of Colorado Springs and Aurora. Colorado Springs is permitted for the McCullough and Quandary water diversion tunnels in the unit's southern portion. Blue Lakes Reservoir and a variety of unnamed ditches are additional water projects. The private parcel in the northern part of this unit is owned by Summit County and the potential for development is low. The southern end of the unit has an active gold mining operation (McCullough Gulch).

AREA 46 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>medium</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>low</i>
Special features	<i>medium</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>high</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>high</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>low</i>

AREA 46 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 48

Gypsum Creek

Acres	17,969
Ranger district	Eagle
History	Portions of this unit were part of the RARE II Red Table North roadless area (18,880 acres).
Location and access	This area is south of Gypsum in Eagle County, about 10 miles west of Holy Cross Wilderness. FDR 464 (Red Table) provides motorized access into the northern portion. Fish Pond Trail is a non-system trail in the northern part of the unit used by range permittees (primarily for stock and foot travel). FDT 1863 (Sundell) traverses the eastern half.
Surroundings	FDR 412 (Gypsum Creek) and 425 (Red Creek) make up the eastern boundary of the area. FDR 514 and a series of timber sale roads define the southwestern boundary. FDR 430 (Powerline) defines the northern boundary.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from 7,600 feet (Gypsum Creek) to 11,161 feet (Red Table Mountain). The area falls within the Hardscrabble ecological subsection of the Forest's landscape character descriptions. The area is characterized by high-relief mountains and hills. Glaciation and periglaciation with fluvial and colluvial influences and some mass-wasting deposition processes define the landform. Soil taxa include Cryoboralfs, Cryorthents, Cryumbrepts and Cryoborolls.</p> <p>Most of the area is covered with Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir with lodgepole pine occurring on the slopes of Red Table Mountain. Some blue spruce occurs along Gypsum Creek, but is mostly found on private land.</p>
Special features or attractions	Red Table Mountain is the highest peak in the area. The limited road and trail access to this area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The lack of public access to Gypsum Creek detracts from the fishing opportunities along its bank.

AREA 48 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	A network of timber sale roads developed to harvest beetle-killed spruce trees defines the southern boundary of this area. There also have been small sales in the area for fuelwood.
Recreation	There are opportunities in this area for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and hunting. Overall, summer use in the area is low, but increasing use of the area has led to conflicts between recreation users. The northwest portion of this unit has a high concentration of illegal OHV use. The highest use of this area occurs on the eastern boundary from the Red Creek Road and in the Mickey Lake area. This area receives a moderate amount of hunting pressure during the fall.
Wildlife	The area is used as summer and transition range for deer and elk.
Range	The area is part of the Cottonwood and Gypsum Creek active cattle allotments. Usual range improvements, such as stock ponds, salt, and fences are present.
Special uses	Outfitters and guides include OFC Outfitting, John Jodrie, and Colorado Outward Bound. At the northern end of the Red Table road system is an area that has been permitted for oil and gas drilling in the past. It is not active at this time. An FAA communications tower is located at the head of the Sugarloaf drainage (in the western portion of the unit) and is highly visible from the Red Table Mountain ridgeline. A Public Service 230 KV transmission line traverses the area on the eastern side. Sundell Reservoir and Gould Creek Ditch are also under permit.

AREA 48 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>medium</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>high</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>low</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 48 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 49 Adam Mountain

Acres	8,208
Ranger district	Eagle
History	Adam Mountain is part of the RARE II Adam Mountain roadless area inventory (5,700 acres).
Location and access	The area is located south of Eagle in Eagle County about three miles west of Holy Cross Wilderness. FDR 400 (Brush Creek) and FDR 415 (East Brush Creek) provide motorized access on the unit's western and eastern portions. FDT 1872 (Sneve Gulch) provides non-motorized access.
Surroundings	FDR 415 (East Brush Creek) is the eastern boundary, and FDR 400 is the western boundary. A series of timber sale roads (Hat Creek) constitute the southeastern boundary.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from 7,600 feet (East Brush Creek) to 11,158 feet (Eve Mountain). The area falls within the Hardscrabble ecological subsection of the Forest's landscape character descriptions. The area is characterized by high-relief mountains and hills. Glaciation and periglaciation with fluvial and colluvial influences and some mass-wasting deposition processes define the landform. Soil taxa include Cryoboralfs, Cryorthents, Cryumbrepts and Cryoborolls.</p> <p>The northern slopes of Adam Mountain are covered with dense stands of pole-sized lodgepole pine. At higher elevations these pine stands transition into spruce-fir.</p>
Special features or attractions	Adam and Eve Mountains are highly visible peaks. A primary destination near the area's southwestern boundary is Sylvan Lake State Recreation Area, managed by Colorado State Parks. Access is restricted along East Brush Creek, thus fishing is limited primarily to Sylvan Lake and Yeoman Park.

AREA 49 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	A network of timber sale roads from the Hat Creek timber sale defines the southeastern boundary.
Recreation	During the summer, most recreation use is concentrated around East Brush Creek, Yeoman Park, and Sylvan Lake. The primary uses are hiking and horseback riding (low level of use). Fishing occurs at Sylvan Lake, but public access in East Brush Creek is limited. Hunting use of the area during the fall is moderate. Winter use is low and is concentrated toward non-motorized activities.
Wildlife	The area is used year-round by a small band of elk and as summer range for other big-game species, including deer and bear. Elk frequent south-facing slopes of some of the secondary drainages in West Brush Creek during most winters. There is no existing or potential fishery in the area.
Range	The area is part of the West Brush Creek and East Brush Creek active cattle allotments. Customary range improvements, such as stock ponds, salt, and fences are present.
Other	The Forest Service is no longer considering the Adams Rib ski area proposal.

AREA 49 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>high</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>high</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>N/A</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>high</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>high</i>
Are manageable	<i>high</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 49 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 50 Tigiwon

Acres	1,990
Ranger district	Holy Cross
History	Portions of this area were identified in the RARE II roadless analysis as Unit 170, "Holy Cross."
Location and access	This area is located south of Minturn in Eagle County. FDR 707 (Tigiwon Road) on the western side and FDR 706 (Peterson Creek) on the eastern side provide motorized access. FDT 2001 (Fall Creek) provides non-motorized access into the southwestern corner.
Surroundings	Holy Cross Wilderness, designated in 1980, surrounds the unit on three sides. The northeastern boundary is defined by private property and national forest boundaries near the Eagle River. Much of this private land is within the Eagle Mine Superfund site.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from about 8,200 feet at the Eagle River to 11,054 feet (an unnamed peak on the Holy Cross Wilderness boundary). The area is described in the Sawatch ecological subsection of the Forest's landscape character descriptions and is characterized by varied topography. This subsection is composed of high-relief mountains shaped by the erosional processes of glaciation and periglaciation along with secondary fluvial and colluvial depositional processes. Landforms include scoured bowl-like cirque walls and floors, glaciated ridgetops and mountainside slopes, talus slopes, couloirs, and U-shaped valleys. The stratigraphy and lithology include the exposed core of the uplifted mountain range composed predominantly of Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks, including granites and gneisses. Some exposed tertiary intrusive rocks also include granodiorite. Soil taxa are composed of Cryochrepts, Cryoboralfs, Cryumbrepts, and Cryoborolls.</p> <p>Most of the unit lies below treeline. Vegetation includes subalpine-fir, Engelmann spruce and alpine meadows, and scree, tundra, and snowfields above treeline. At the lowest elevations, aspen and lodgepole pine forests are interspersed with mountain shrublands.</p>
Special features or attractions	Tigiwon Road (FDR 707) is a major access route to Holy Cross Wilderness, particularly for visitors to Mount of the Holy Cross. There are no major peaks in the unit. Tigiwon Lodge, located on the southwestern boundary of this area, is a significant attraction.

AREA 50 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	There have been no recent timber sales in the area, but historically the unit had selected harvest throughout to support homesteading and mining. Its northwestern boundary is adjacent to a timber sale area harvested in the 1980s for lodgepole pine. An old sawmill site is at the head of the Peterson Creek drainage.
Recreation	<p>Recreation use occurs year round. Tigiwon Road (FDR 707) is a primary access route in the summer for Holy Cross Wilderness (Cross Creek, Fall Creek, and Halfmoon Pass trailheads) and for people climbing to the summit of Mount of the Holy Cross or to viewpoints on Notch Mountain. During the winter, snowmobilers and cross-country skiers use this road. Nova Guides has a permitted snowmobile operation along this route and has snowmobile snow play areas within the unit.</p> <p>FDR 706 (Peterson Creek) is a four-wheel-drive route maintained by the Holy Cross Jeep Club. Recreation activities include hiking, mountain biking, camping, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and hunting. Use is primarily confined to the road corridors, except for snowmobile snow play and hunting. There is a moderate level of hunting pressure in this area. Tigiwon Lodge, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, is a year-round large-group destination that offers outstanding views of the Gore Range and Battle Mountain.</p>
Wildlife	The area is used as summer and transition range for big game, including deer, elk, and bear.
Range	There are no active grazing allotments.
Other	The potential is high for development of patented mining claims in the northeastern part of the area. There is currently an application to construct a road through the unit to access one of these sites.

AREA 50 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>medium</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>medium</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 50 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 51b Basalt Mountain

Acreage	7,613
Ranger district	Sopris
History	This unit is part of the western half of the RARE II unit called “Red Tables,” Unit 176. It is not adjacent to a wilderness area. It could be combined with Unit 53, if Taylor Creek Road, which is not legally open to motorized use under the current travel management plan, were to be eliminated.
Location and access	The area is located north of Basalt in Eagle County. One cherry-stem road, Toner Creek Road, provides private land and CDOW access. Two system trails border the area, but are not open to motorized use: FDT 1909 (Cattle Creek) and 1912 (Basalt Mountain). Toner Creek Trail is a well-used non-system non-motorized trail used mainly by an outfitter.
Surroundings	The unit is bordered on the north by FDT 1909 (bicycle trail) and historic timber harvest areas, on the east by Taylor Creek Road, on the south by private and state (CDOW) lands, and on the west by the section line running north-south dividing Sections 29-30 and 31-32.
Physical and biological description	Elevations range from about 7,000 feet near the Fryingpan River to about 10,800 feet. There is a variety of terrain—from rolling to steep slopes and cliffs. A wide variety of vegetation includes sagebrush, open meadows, piñon-juniper, oak, aspen, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and spruce-fir. The only lake within the unit is Toner Reservoir, a small, mostly dry impoundment.
Special features or attractions	Basalt outcrops and talus are characteristically associated with Basalt Mountain. Dramatic red sandstone buttes at Seven Castles are a landform not usually associated with mountain topography. Cultural features include remains of an old Forest Service fire tower on Basalt Mountain summit.

AREA 51B RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	The unit is adjacent to recent and proposed timber harvest areas at Basalt Mountain and Red Table Mountain. Areas within the unit are under analysis for proposed timber harvest on Basalt Mountain.
Recreation	The Basalt Mountain and Cattle Creek Trails, recently reconstructed to emphasize mountain bike use, receive a moderate amount of such use. A moderate-to-heavy amount of hunting occurs, mainly for elk. Outfitter-guide uses include summer horse rides and hunting. There is some viewing of bighorn sheep. Some illegal motorized use (motorcycle and ATVs) occurs on the bicycle trails and other areas. Some winter use occurs, mainly snowmobiling and a small amount of cross-country skiing.
Minerals	The potential is believed to be low.
Wildlife	The area is winter range for bighorn sheep and elk at lower elevations. Elk calving occurs in the unit. Peregrine falcons have historically been seen in the Seven Castles area. A sensitive plant species has been found.
Range	There are two active cattle allotments (Basalt Mountain and the west half of Taylor Creek). Normal range improvements, such as stock ponds, salt, and fences are present.
Water	Water developments include the Toner Reservoir impoundment.
Fire	Portions of lower elevations have been actively managed with prescribed fire. The top of Basalt Mountain has very heavy fuel loading, and there is concern that a catastrophic wildfire could occur.
Special Uses	A special-use sheep rearing pasture (believed to be inactive) is under permit to the CDOW.

AREA 51B CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>medium</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>high</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>low</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>N/A</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>low</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 51B AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage? | <i>no</i> |
| 2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures? | <i>no</i> |
| 3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential? | <i>no</i> |
| 4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation? | <i>no</i> |
| 5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports? | <i>*</i> |
| 6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation? | <i>no</i> |

**There is valuable commercial timber on top of Basalt Mountain. Designation as wilderness would preclude opportunities to manage this timber. Fuel loading on top of Basalt Mountain may require treatment to reduce the chance of catastrophic fire.*

Roadless Area 52 Woods Lake

Acres	12,205
Ranger district	Sopris
History	This unit is part of the RARE II Unit 170, “Holy Cross.”
Location and access	The area is located south of Eagle and northeast of Meredith and Thomasville in Eagle and Pitkin Counties. Numerous cherry stems were created for mining access on the Eagle District. These roads (FDR 426, 418, and 646) access 30 to 40 patented mining claims inside the north end of the unit, near New York Mountain. Woods Lake Road (FDR 507) and Slim Jim Road both access private property and create cherry stems into Unit 52. Additionally, FDT 1898 (Nolan Lake), 2221 (New York Mountain), 1899 (Lake Charles), 1873 (Iron Edge), 1917 (Tellurium), 1945 (Last Chance), and 1915 (Eagle Lake) access Holy Cross Wilderness through the unit. FDT 1928 (Woods Lake) is a system trail that is outside Holy Cross Wilderness. Slim Jim trail is a non-system trail outside the wilderness.
Surroundings	The west boundary is formed by Burnt Mountain Road (FDR 506), Eagle/Thomasville Road (FDR 400) and logging roads in the Hat Creek area. The north fork of Fryingpan Road (FDR 501) defines the southern boundary. The eastern boundary is the Holy Cross Wilderness. Logging roads in the McGinley sale area and FDR 646 in the Fulford Cave area make up the northern boundary. A major private property cherry stem (Woods Lake), together with its access road, nearly bisects the unit. There may be some potential for additional development of private land inholdings within the unit.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from 8,800 feet to 12,050 feet (Mount Charles). The area falls within the Sawatch ecological subsection of the Forest’s landscape character descriptions. The terrain is generally rolling with some steep sections. The main creeks are Last Chance and Upper Lime.</p> <p>The vegetation is lodgepole in the mid-range, spruce-fir, aspen, and meadows in the upper sections, and willows in the riparian areas. Scree, tundra, and snowfields exist above treeline. There is a large beaver pond north of Last Chance in Section 11 on Little Lime Creek. Soil taxa include Cryochrepts, Cryoboralfs, Cryumbrepts, and Cryoborolls.</p>
Special features or attractions	The unit features karst topography. Two 10th Mountain Hut Association huts, Peter Estin and Polar Star, are inside the unit on the Eagle District and are used year-round. Fulford Cave, a significant cave resource, is located on the western boundary. New York Mountain, Charles Peak, Craig Peak, and Burnt Mountain are major peaks that are on the eastern boundary of this unit. Old logging camps are found above Elk Wallow Campground. An old stamp mill is on the ridge between Lime Creek and Little Lime Creek, and several historic sawmill sites (one near Tellurium Trail) are scattered throughout the area.

AREA 52 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	Fuelwood gathering occurs near the unit. Some timber that had been marked but never cut is south of the Last Chance Trail. A timber sale is being considered along the ridge south of Last Chance Creek and along the Tellurium Lake Trail area, but those units within the old RARE II area may be dropped from further analysis for timber harvest.
Recreation	Uses include hiking, hunting, mountain biking, hut use, snowmobiling, fishing, and horseback riding. Outfitter-guides provide summer and winter uses and hunting services. Winter and summer use in the northern section of this unit has greatly increased since the Polar Star and Estlin Huts were constructed. These year-round destinations are on private property. The Harry Gates Hut is located on National Forest System land adjacent to the unit and is a focal point for winter and summer uses.
Minerals	Commercial-building rock is collected under a mineral material sale permit along FDT 1917. There is moderate hard rock potential in most of the area. The patented mining claims in the New York Mountain area have a high potential for development.
Range	The unit is part of the Lime Creek Park cattle allotment with associated range improvements. The northern section is part of the East Brush Creek active cattle allotment with usual improvements, including stock ponds, salt, and fences.
Water	Woods Lake and Crooked Creek Reservoirs are adjacent to the unit.
Fire	The Burnt Mountain historic fire occurred within the area.

AREA 52 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>medium</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>medium</i>
Manageability	<i>high</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>medium</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>
Caving	<i>high</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>N/A</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>high</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>high</i>

AREA 52 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 53a

Red Table

Acreage 39,095

Ranger districts Eagle and Sopris

History This unit is part of the eastern half of the RARE II unit called “Red Tables,” Unit 176. It is not adjacent to any wilderness. It could be combined with Unit 51B, if Taylor Creek Road, which is not legally open to motorized use under the current travel management plan, were to be eliminated. The area also could be combined with Unit 48, if FDR 425 along Red Creek were to be eliminated. FDR 425 is a legally open four-wheel-drive road.

Location and access This unit is located north of the communities of Meredith and Thomasville in Eagle County. There are several cherry-stemmed roads into the unit, including roads associated with private property near Ruedi Reservoir, Downey Creek, and Spring Creek. The FDR 512 roads and spurs associated with the Jakeman timber sale area border the unit on the east. The Gypsum Creek Road (FDR 412) bisects the northern half of the area and provides motorized access to LEDE Reservoir. System trails through the unit include FDT 1870 (Mt. Thomas), 1912 (Ruedi), 1871 (Antones), and 2224 (Lost Lake). FDT 1912 is not legally open to motorized use, but receives frequent illegal motorcycle use. FDT 1870 and 1871 are singletrack trails legally open to motorized use, but receive light motorized use because of difficult terrain.

Surroundings The unit is bordered on the north by the Powerline-Gypsum Creek Roads (FDR 412), on the east by the Jakeman timber roads, on the south by private lands along the Fryingpan River and a powerline, and on the west by FDR 425 (Red Creek), FDR 514 (Red Table Road), and Taylor Creek Road. There is private land development on the north and south sides of the unit.

Physical and biological description Elevations range from about 7,000 feet at Taylor Creek to more than 12,000 feet at Ruedi Peak on Red Table Mountain. There is a variety of terrain—from rolling to steep slopes and cliffs. Vegetation includes sagebrush, open meadows, piñon-juniper, oak, aspen, and spruce-fir. Numerous cirque lakes are found below the ridge of Red Table Mountain, mainly on the north side of the ridge on the Eagle District.

Special features or attractions Red Table Mountain is a massive red sandstone mountain of the Maroon formation with extensive area above timberline. Spectacular views of five different wilderness areas are to be found all along the length of the summit.

There are excellent opportunities for solitude.

AREA 53A RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	The unit is adjacent to recent and proposed timber harvest areas at Jakeman, Coyote Park, and Billings Springs, all on the east side. It is also adjacent to recent timber harvesting along FDR 514 (Red Table Road). There is evidence of timber harvesting (primarily post and poles) on the east and west sides of FDR 412 near LEDE Reservoir. This area is also the site of a now-abandoned sawmill.
Recreation	A trail legally open to motorcycle use (Mt. Thomas) bisects the unit. This trail receives low use by motorcycles because of its technical difficulty, and moderately low use by hikers and mountain bikers because of the lack of water. Ruedi Trail receives moderate hiking and bicycle use because it connects to a large developed recreation complex at Ruedi Reservoir. Some illegal motorized use occurs on this trail; illegal motorized use also originates from the Jakeman area. Some hunting use occurs, mainly for elk, especially on the east side of the unit. There is some outfitter-guide use, mainly for hunting. The CDOW stocks Lost Lake with fish and it receives a moderate amount of use during the summer.
Minerals	The potential is believed to be low.
Wildlife	The area is summer range and some winter range for bighorn sheep, and summer and winter range for elk. Elk calving occurs in the unit. There may be habitat for peregrine falcons in cliff areas. A Region 2 sensitive plant species, Harrington's penstemon, is found in the unit.
Range	There are parts of three active cattle allotments on the Sopris side (east half of Taylor Creek, Downey-Frenchman, and a small part of Lime Park Allotment). This is also part of the Gypsum Creek active cattle allotment on the Eagle Ranger district. Usual range improvements, such as stock ponds, salt, and fences are present.
Water	Water developments include several ditches, including one from Antones Creek to LEDE Reservoir.
Fire	Portions of the lower elevations near the Fryingpan River have been actively managed with prescribed fire.
Special uses	In addition to the water developments noted above, there is a special-use isolated cabin under permit to CDOW and a special-use pasture. An FAA tower is located at the head of the Sugarloaf drainage (immediately to the west of the area) and is highly visible from within the area.

AREA 53A CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>medium</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>high</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>high</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 53A AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage? | <i>no</i> |
| 2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures? | <i>no</i> |
| 3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential? | <i>no</i> |
| 4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation? | <i>no</i> |
| 5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports? | <i>no</i> |
| 6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation? | <i>*</i> |

**All National Forest System roads and trails currently open to motorized and mechanized use in this unit would have to be closed to those uses.*

Roadless Area 54 Homestake

Acres	4,089
Ranger district	Holy Cross
History	A portion of this area was identified in the RARE II analysis as roadless area 170, "Holy Cross."
Location and access	This area is south of Minturn and west of Camp Hale in Eagle County, adjacent to Holy Cross Wilderness. FDR 703 (Homestake) on the western side and FDR 705 (No Name) on the eastern side provide motorized access. There is a network of non-system roads and bridges that cross Homestake Creek to reach two summer home tracts and private property along the creek. There are no system trails within the unit.
Surroundings	Holy Cross Wilderness, designated in 1980, is adjacent to the southern boundary. The eastern boundary is defined by FDR 705 (No Name) and the western boundary by FDR 703 (Homestake). US Highway 24 and the railroad corridor define the northern boundary.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from about 9,000 feet at Homestake Creek to 11,520 feet at the Holy Cross Wilderness boundary. The area is described in the Sawatch ecological subsection of the Forest's landscape character descriptions and is characterized by varied topography. This subsection is composed of high-relief mountains shaped by the erosional processes of glaciation and periglaciation along with secondary fluvial and colluvial depositional processes. Landforms include scoured bowl-like cirque walls and floors, glaciated ridgetops and mountainside slopes, talus slopes, couloirs, and U-shaped valleys. The stratigraphy and lithology include the exposed core of the uplifted mountain range composed of predominantly of Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks, including granites and gneisses. Some exposed Tertiary intrusive rocks also include granodiorite. Soil taxa include Cryochrepts, Cryoboralfs, Cryumbrepts, and Cryoborolls.</p> <p>Most of the unit lies below treeline. Vegetation includes primarily subalpine-fir and Engelmann spruce with aspen and lodgepole pine forests in the lower elevations.</p>
Special features or attractions	There are no major peaks or special attractions within this area. The unit is significant for its lack of roads and trails and for its opportunities for solitude.

AREA 54 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	The southeastern boundary of the area supported lodgepole and spruce-fir timber sales during the 1970s (No Name).
Recreation	Recreation use occurs year-round. Use is primarily confined to the Homestake and No Name road corridors and along Homestake Creek. The primary-use season is during the summer with driving, hiking, mountain biking, fishing, and camping being the primary activities. Blodgett and Gold Park Campgrounds are located along the western boundary. There is a moderate amount of hunting pressure during the fall. Use is low during the winter, but Homestake and No Name Roads are used as routes for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.
Wildlife	The western boundary has been identified by the CDOW as critical winter habitat for a large herd of elk and a moderately sized herd of deer. CDOW has proposed to transplant bighorn sheep in potential roadless area 56 (No Name), which is located immediately to the south.
Other	Homestake Road is maintained in part by the cities of Colorado Springs and Aurora to access Homestake Reservoir. There are multiple parcels of private property along the western boundary and the potential for development is high. In addition, the Forest Service has permitted five recreation residences along this boundary. Currently, there are two applications for Ditch Bill easements. The southwest corner has several patented and unpatented mining claims. A non-system jeep road that starts at Gold Park Campground accesses these claims.

AREA 54 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>medium</i>
Manageability	<i>high</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking.....	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>high</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>high</i>
Are manageable	<i>high</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 54 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 56 Hoosier Ridge

Acres	6,054
Ranger district	Dillon
History	This area was identified in the RARE II roadless area analysis as “Red Peak” with 5,630 acres.
Location and access	The unit is south of Breckenridge and north of Hoosier Pass in Summit County about five miles south of Eagles Nest Wilderness. FDR 10 (Boreas Pass), 693 (Indiana), 611 (Pennsylvania), 600 (Fredonia), and US Highway 9 provide motorized access. There are no system trails accessing the unit, although a network of non-system trails leads into it from housing developments on its eastern border.
Surroundings	The area is bounded on the north by FDR 693 (Indiana Creek), on the south and east by the White River and Pike-San Isabel National Forest boundaries, and on the west by US Highway 9. Development on the western boundary includes the town of Blue River, Quandary Village Estates, Tordal Estates, and Spruce Valley Ranch.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from about 10,600 feet to Red Peak's summit of 13,215 feet. The Gore/Mosquito Ranges ecological subsection of the Forest's landscape character descriptions describes the area. Landform features include scoured bowl-like cirque headwalls and floors, U-shaped valleys, couloirs, talus slopes, and rounded mountain slopes. This subsection is composed of north-south-oriented high-relief mountains. Dominant geomorphic processes include glaciation and periglaciation. Secondary fluvial stream deposition from the Blue and Swan Rivers, along with Tenmile and Gore Creeks, has built up the river basins. The stratigraphy and lithology include uplifted mountain ranges composed of predominantly Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks, including granites and gneisses. Soil taxa include Cryumbrepts at the highest elevations along summits and cirque lands, Cryochrepts and Cryoboralfs along the flanks of the ranges, and Cryoborolls along the valleys.</p> <p>Vegetation includes subalpine-fir and Engelmann spruce, and alpine meadows with scree, tundra, and snowfields above treeline. Lodgepole pine forests at lower elevations cover about two-thirds of the unit.</p>
Special features or attractions	<p>The Continental Divide and the major peaks along its ridgeline are a significant attraction. Major peaks include Red Peak, Red Mountain, and Mount Argentine. Hoosier Pass and Boreas Pass mark the unit's southern and eastern boundaries. The Boreas Pass Road from Breckenridge to Como is a historic railroad grade with an extremely high amount of use year-round.</p> <p>The newly restored Boreas Pass Section House is located on the eastern boundary of the unit. In its southern portion is the Hoosier Ridge RNA. The Dyersville townsite is another historic cultural feature.</p>

AREA 56 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	Within the Hoosier Ridge RNA, numerous sensitive plant species have been identified. Historic timber harvesting occurred throughout the area to support mining operations.
Recreation	Recreation activities include hiking, mountain biking, four-wheel-drive use, hunting, skiing, snowshoeing, camping, dog walking, and driving to view scenery. There is a system of marked cross-country ski trails in the Bemrose drainage. Limited public access deters some recreation use. The primary access points are from Hoosier Ridge and Boreas Pass. There is no public easement through Indiana and Pennsylvania Creek Roads, although current landowners are allowing passage. Illegal motorized use occurs on a non-system route from Pennsylvania Creek east across to the Tarryall drainage.
Wildlife	The area does not have any significant wildlife habitat, although deer and elk use it for summer range. There have been problems with homeowners near the area attracting bears by improperly storing garbage and birdseed.
Other	A communication site is located on Hoosier Ridge and a powerline corridor crosses the unit's eastern portion. Isolated cabins from the mining era are found throughout the area. Warriors Mark Mine and Dyersville, on the eastern boundary, also contain historic structures from the mining period. A surface-water diversion runs along Boreas Pass near the eastern boundary.

AREA 56 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>high</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>medium</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>high</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking.....	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>medium</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>low</i>

AREA 56 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 57

No Name

Acres	3,185
Ranger district	Holy Cross
History	A portion of this area was identified in the RARE II analysis as roadless area 170, "Holy Cross."
Location and access	The area is south of Minturn and west of Camp Hale in Eagle County, and borders Holy Cross Wilderness on its southern boundary. FDR 705 (No Name Road) provides motorized access on the eastern side. There are no system trails within the unit.
Surroundings	Holy Cross Wilderness, designated in 1980, is adjacent to the unit's western boundary. The eastern boundary is defined by FDR 705 (No Name Road) and the western boundary by the Continental Divide and the Pike-San Isabel and White River National Forest boundaries. Roadless Area 170 RARE II on the Pike/San Isabel National Forest (6,234 acres) is adjacent to this area.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from about 10,800 feet at No Name Road to 12,696 feet at the Holy Cross Wilderness boundary. The area is described in the Sawatch ecological subsection of the Forest's landscape character descriptions and is characterized by varied topography. This subsection is composed of high-relief mountains shaped by the erosional processes of glaciation and periglaciation along with secondary fluvial and colluvial depositional processes. Landforms include scoured bowl-like cirque walls and floors, glaciated ridgetops and mountainside slopes, talus slopes, couloirs, and U-shaped valleys. The stratigraphy and lithology include the exposed core of the uplifted mountain range composed primarily of Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks, including granites and gneisses. Some exposed Tertiary intrusive rocks also include granodiorite. Soil taxa are composed of Cryochrepts, Cryoboralfs, Cryumbrepts, and Cryoborolls.</p> <p>Homestake Ridge, along the unit's southwestern boundary, is completely above treeline. Vegetation includes subalpine-fir, Engelmann spruce and alpine meadows, and scree, tundra, and snowfields above treeline. Aspen and lodgepole pine forests are found in the lower elevations.</p>
Special features or attractions	There are no named major peaks in the area, but Homestake Ridge, along the Continental Divide, is a significant feature.

AREA 57 RESOURCE USES

<i>Vegetation</i>	The northern boundary of the area supported lodgepole and spruce-fir timber sales during the 1970s.
<i>Recreation</i>	Recreation use is limited to the No Name road corridor and along Homestake Ridge. Overall use levels are low. Recreation activities include peak climbing and off-trail travel, four-wheel-drive use, camping, snowmobiling, and hunting. There are problems with illegal motorized use (snowmobiles and four-wheel-drive vehicles) crossing into Holy Cross Wilderness. The lack of roads and trails in the area provides an excellent opportunity for solitude.
<i>Wildlife</i>	The CDOW has proposed to transplant bighorn sheep into this unit. If the transplant occurs, the unit would contain critical winter habitat for bighorn sheep. The area is currently used as summer and transition habitat for elk and deer.
<i>Other</i>	Travel management in this area allows over-the-snow vehicles operating on snow throughout the area. Use of other motorized vehicles is prohibited yearlong off roads and trails and is permitted on designated roads and trails.

AREA 57 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>medium</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>high</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>N/A</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking.....	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>high</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>high</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 57 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 59

Chicago Ridge

Acres	5,072
Ranger district	Holy Cross
History	The Chicago Ridge roadless area is composed of a portion of the Chicago Ridge RARE II analysis area (4,480 acres).
Location and access	This area is located south of Camp Hale and north of Tennessee Pass in Eagle County. FDR 731 and 101 are primitive roads on which motorized use is allowed through the area. FDT 2108 (Colorado Trail) bounds the western portion. There are no other forest development trails in the area. FDR 731 is used year round to access private residences on inholdings in the Taylor Gulch area. Additionally, the Chicago Ridge area is accessed from Ski Cooper during the winter for snowcat ski touring.
Surroundings	The East Fork Road (FDR 714) defines the northern boundary. The western boundary is defined by US Highway 24 and the southern boundary by the White River and Pike-San Isabel National Forest boundaries. The eastern boundary is defined by national forest and private land boundaries at Climax. Holy Cross Wilderness is about three miles to the west, across US Highway 24. Roadless area 355 RARE II (1,151 acres) on the Pike/San Isabel National Forest is adjacent to this area.
Physical and biological description	<p>Elevations range from about 9,400 feet at Camp Hale to 12,714 feet on Chicago Ridge. This area is described in the Gore Range ecological subsection of the Forest's landscape character descriptions and is characterized by varied topography. The terrain is roughly broken, dissected by numerous drainages, and ranges in character from rolling valley floors to very steep slopes and high ridges. The stratigraphy and lithology include uplifted mountain ranges composed primarily of Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks, including granites and gneisses.</p> <p>Soil taxa associated with this subsection include Cryumbrepts at the highest elevations along summits and cirque lands, Cryochrepts and Cryoboralfs along the flanks of the ranges, and Cryoborolls along the valleys.</p> <p>The dominant vegetation type is spruce-fir forest, followed by grassland/ meadow and lodgepole forest.</p>
Special features or attractions	Camp Hale, along the northern boundary, has been designated a National Historic Site and was used by the 10th Mountain Division as a high-altitude training area during World War II. Vance's Cabin, a 10th Mountain Hut Association cabin, is located on private property within the area. Chicago Ridge is a striking above-treeline landform that runs north to south.

AREA 59 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	Extensive mining in the western part of this area led to selective timber harvesting throughout much of the Chicago Ridge area. In recent history, there have been no commercial timber sales.
Recreation	Recreation use is concentrated during the winter season with cross-country and snowcat skiing. Summer use is low with some hiking, mountain biking, and jeep touring. Chicago Ridge Snowcat Tours is a commercial outfitter and guide operation run on National Forest System lands by Ski Cooper.
Wildlife	The Chicago Ridge area is used as summer range for elk and deer. There is limited water available in this area (Taylor, Piney, and Jones Gulches) and no known Colorado River cutthroat trout.
Range	The Chicago Ridge roadless area is part of the Tennessee Pass grazing allotment that is vacant at this time.
Other	There has been significant residential development on private property parcels in the western portion of the area. The Ski Cooper permit boundary extends into the southern portion. Climax Mine is located to the east.

AREA 59 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>medium</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>medium</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>N/A</i>
Backpacking	<i>medium</i>
Hiking.....	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>high</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>low</i>

AREA 59 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 61 Sloan Peak

Acres	31,348
Ranger district	Aspen and Sopris
History	The unit was part of the Porphyry Mountain RARE II area, Unit 177. It is adjacent to Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness on the east side.
Location and access	The area is in Pitkin County southeast of Basalt. There are multiple cherry-stemmed roads into the unit. On the west, the Arbaney-Kittle Trail penetrates it. Although this trail has a roadbed that is still drivable, it is closed to motorized use (except snowmobiles). On the southwest side, FDR 534 enters the unit and is legally open to motorized travel. On the southeast, multiple roads project from the Kobey Park area. Several system trails bisect the area, including FDT 1931 (Rocky Fork), 1930 (Miller Divide), and Arbaney-Kittle. These trails are not legally open to motorized use.
Surroundings	The unit is bordered on the north by the Fryingpan River (including adjacent private lands) and Ruedi Reservoir, on the east by Unit 64 and the Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness, on the south by Kobey Park roads and the Forest boundary, and on the west by the Forest boundary. There is private land development along the Fryingpan, the east part of Ruedi Reservoir, and along Miller Creek. Potential for more development exists.
Physical and biological description	Elevations range from about 7,600 feet on the west side to about 11,500 at Porphyry Mountain. Terrain varies, and is generally steep on the north side, rolling on top, and steep on the south. There are a variety of vegetation types, including sagebrush, oak, aspen, Douglas fir, spruce-fir, and open meadows. There are no lakes in the unit. Rocky Fork Creek is a cutthroat trout fishery.
Special features or attractions	Cerise Gulch, a potential RNA of about 2,400 acres that includes a good representation of lower-elevation vegetation communities, is being evaluated. The Fryingpan River is a Gold Medal trout stream. Cultural sites include an old CCC camp called Flycamp, cabin foundations in upper Rocky Fork, and the old (closed) Peachblow sandstone quarry adjacent to the Fryingpan. Private lands bisect the eastern portion of the unit (Miller Creek), and can be expected to require road access in the future.

AREA 61 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	There is potential for additional harvest adjacent to recently harvested areas at Kobey Park. There is timber on the north side of the unit, but much of it occurs on slopes greater than 40 percent.
Recreation	A moderate-to-heavy amount of hunting, mainly for elk, occurs. Hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling occur on trails, mainly in the summer. Motorized use, mainly by motorcycles, is heavy in the Red Canyon area. There is some illegal motorized use on trails and closed roads. Heavy fishing use occurs on the Fryingpan River, including outfitter-guide use. Ruedi Reservoir is heavily used for motor boating and sailing, along with boat-accessed dispersed camping on the south shore of the reservoir. Winter use is generally light.
Minerals	There is probably moderate or better potential for minerals in the Miller Creek area where patented mining claims exist.
Wildlife	The area contains elk winter range mainly on the west end and along the Fryingpan River.
Range	There is one active cattle allotment in the unit (Red Canyon) and one vacant allotment. Normal range improvements, such as stock ponds, salt, and fences may be found.
Water	The major water development in the unit is Ruedi Reservoir, a 1,000-acre impoundment that is part of the Fryingpan-Arkansas transbasin water project managed by the Bureau of Reclamation. There are several other ditches in the unit.
Fire	There has been some active management using prescribed fire on the southwest part of the unit.
Special uses	In addition to water ditches, there is a powerline in the southwest corner of the unit and an isolated cabin under permit. There may be one or more pastures under permit on the east side.

AREA 61 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>medium</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>medium</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>high</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>high</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>low</i>
Hiking.....	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>N/A</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>low</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>low</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 61 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>*</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

**Although the north face of Sloan Peak ridge is heavily timbered, steep terrain historically has made the timber inaccessible, and harvest might be visually unacceptable.*

Roadless Area 64 Mormon Creek

Acres	4,425
Ranger district	Sopris
History	Mormon Creek was part of the RARE II Unit 170, "Holy Cross." It is adjacent to Holy Cross Wilderness.
Location and access	The unit is located in Pitkin and Eagle Counties. Thomasville is to the west. Trails include the beginning of FDT 1918 (Savage Lakes) and 1919 (Lyle/Mormon). The unit is almost bisected by a cherry-stem road for the Cunningham water diversion.
Surroundings	Cunningham Creek Road (FDR 501.1B) forms the southern boundary; the north fork of the Fryingpan Road (FDR 510) forms the northern boundary. The southwestern side is delineated by FDR 532 and 538, and the east and north sides are bordered by Holy Cross Wilderness.
Physical and biological description	Elevations range from 9,500 to 12,100 feet. Lower elevations contain lodgepole with spruce/fir and small aspen patches at the upper elevations. The terrain is generally steep. There are no major lakes.

AREA 64 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	There is low potential for timber harvest because of steep slopes. Historically, limited cutting did occur, but there has been no recent commercial activity.
Recreation	Some fishing, hiking, and hunting occurs, but there is very little winter use.
Minerals	There is low potential and no historic use.
Wildlife	The area provides summer range for deer and elk, and is adjacent to cutthroat fisheries in Cunningham Creek.
Range	The unit is within the vacant Ivanhoe sheep allotment.
Water	Fryingpan-Arkansas water project diversions are located along cherry stems. The Mormon tunnel runs under the unit. Lyle Lake ditch feeds into Ivanhoe for the Pueblo Water Board.

AREA 64 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>low</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>medium</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>low</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>low</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>low</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>low</i>
Backpacking	<i>low</i>
Hiking.....	<i>low</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>low</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>N/A</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>low</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>low</i>

AREA 64 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 69 Assignment Ridge

Acres	18,464
Ranger district	Sopris
History	Most of the unit corresponds with RARE II Unit 182, “Perham Creek.” It is not adjacent to any wilderness.
Location and access	The area is in Pitkin County southwest of the town of Carbondale. There are several cherry-stemmed roads into the unit. These are the Thompson Creek roads associated with a private property inholding along Thompson Creek and its tributaries. System roads are FDR 306 and 305. System trails through the unit are FDT 1952 (South Thompson/Braderich Creek), 2093 (Lake Ridge Lakes), and 1949 (Perham Creek). All of these trails are legally closed to motorized use.
Surroundings	The unit is bordered on the north by the Forest boundary, which adjoins BLM lands; on the east by private lands along State Highway 133; on the south by the Coal Basin road system; and on the west by private lands along Lake Ridge, as well as lands near Dexter Park that have been acquired by the Forest Service. There is existing private land development along the Crystal River (Highway 133), but there is probably not much opportunity for further development. There is potential for private land development on the inholdings along Thompson Creek and Lake Ridge. This area and the adjacent BLM lands are being sponsored by U.S. Representative DeGette for wilderness designation.
Physical and biological description	Elevations range from about 7,000 feet near the Crystal River to about 10,600 feet. There is a variety of terrain from rolling to steep slopes to precipitous slopes at the Crystal River canyon. There is an “excellent presentation of a number of plant associations” that is described in the Assignment Ridge proposed RNA description (see Appendix G). No lakes occur in the unit.
Special features or attractions	The area has been identified as a potential RNA—Assignment Ridge. It is adjacent to the West Elk Loop Scenic Byway, which has been designated as a State of Colorado scenic and historic byway and a national forest scenic byway. The historic townsite of the 19th century coal-mining town of Coal Basin is located within or adjacent to the southwest edge of the unit. The corridor for the American Discovery Trail, a multi-user coast-to-coast route, is planned to cross the area.

AREA 69 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	There are no significant recent or proposed harvest areas within the unit.
Recreation	A moderate-to-heavy amount of hunting occurs, mainly for elk. Outfitter use, mainly associated with hunting, is present. Trails in the unit receive moderate use by hikers, horses, and mountain bikes. The Braderich Creek/South Thompson Trail is especially popular with mountain bikers and is under an Adopt-a-Trail agreement with a mountain bike club. The Perham Creek Trail is becoming increasingly popular with hikers and horse users. Some illegal motorized use occurs in the area and on the trails. Some snowmobiling occurs, but very little cross-country skiing because of the distance from plowed roads. There is a popular rock-climbing site on the edge of the unit across from Redstone Campground.
Minerals	<p>The potential for locatable minerals is low; however, there has been exploration in the past (a historic, closed copper mine in the Perham Creek area).</p> <p>Coal has medium-to-high potential; oil and gas potential is medium. The Forest has processed oil and gas leasing applications for this area, and some seismic exploration has occurred in the last 15 years.</p>
Wildlife	The area contains deer and elk winter range.
Range	There are parts of two active cattle allotments in the unit, Lake Ridge and Coal Basin. Normal range improvements, such as stock ponds, salt, and fences are found.
Water	The Sweet Jessup ditch runs along the east side of the unit. There is also a ditch in the South Thompson area.
Fire	Active management with prescribed fire has occurred in the Vorhies and Assignment Ridge areas.
Special uses	A coal mine waste dump was located at the south end of the unit in Coal Basin under special-use permit.

AREA 69 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>medium</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>high</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>high</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>medium</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>low</i>
Backpacking	<i>low</i>
Hiking.....	<i>medium</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>medium</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>N/A</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>low</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>low</i>

AREA 69 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>1</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>2</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>3</i>

1. Some vegetation treatments such as prescribed fire or noxious weed eradication may be beneficial to retain diverse, healthy plant communities.

2. Possibly. Although coal and copper are known to occur in the area, there has been no recent economic activity to extract locatable minerals. The Forest recently has processed oil and gas leasing applications for this area.

3. None known except possible gas leases.

Roadless Area 71

North Woody

Acres	8,521
Ranger district	Aspen
History	This parcel was part of RARE II Unit 177. North Woody is not adjacent to a wilderness area. It may not have been included in past wilderness designations because timber sales, private lands, and numerous roads surround it.
Location and access	The unit is in Pitkin County north of Aspen. At its southeast corner is the community of Lenado. Access is by way of Woody Creek Road to the south, the Kobey Park road complex to the north, and Larkspur Road to the east. Cherry stems are created by Collins Creek and Little Woody Creek drainages. Hannon Creek and Collins Creek are non-motorized trails.
Surroundings	Woody Creek is to the south with a considerable amount of private land along Woody Creek Road. BLM land and the Forest boundary are on the west side. The north boundary is formed by Kobey Park, and Larkspur Road is to the east.
Physical and biological description	Elevations range from 8,000 to 10,300 feet (Vagner Mountain). The terrain is generally steep with south- and southwest-facing slopes composed of sedimentary bedrock. Lower-elevation vegetation is mainly Gambel oak and brush; spruce-fir is found at higher elevations and on west-facing slopes. Douglas-fir can be found in the draws.

AREA 71 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	Although this area is adjacent to the Kobey Park timber area, the North Woody section has limited timber potential because of its dryness and steepness.
Recreation	Some hunting occurs, but other uses are limited by steepness.
Minerals	There is low overall potential; some potential exists along the east edge where patented mining claims exist. There is low potential for oil and gas development.
Wildlife	The unit provides summer range for deer and elk with some winter range on the west side.
Range	The north part of the area includes a portion of the Red Canyon Allotment. The Woody Allotment is vacant.
Water	There are two springboxes in Collins Creek.
Fire	Some prescribed fire has occurred in the past for deer and elk habitat improvement.
Special uses	There are irrigation ditches in Collins Creek.

AREA 71 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>low</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>low</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>low</i>
Hunting	<i>low</i>
Fishing	<i>low</i>
Backpacking	<i>low</i>
Hiking.....	<i>low</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>low</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>low</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 71 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 75 Hunter

Acres	1,188
Ranger district	Aspen
History	This area was part of RARE II Units 177 and 178. It may not have been included in the original Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness proposal because of some historic motorized use, past grazing, and historic timber harvests.
Location and access	The unit is in Pitkin County about two miles east of Aspen, adjacent to Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness. Private Road 130 borders the area on the north and Smuggler Road on the south and southwest. Warren Lakes is located at its southern tip (this group of lakes is privately owned, but the Forest Service will soon finalize acquisition.) Hunter Creek Trail crosses the unit in the north.
Surroundings	County Road 130 and Smuggler Road mark the area's northern and southern boundaries. Along its western side are private residential properties.
Physical and biological description	Elevations range from 8,800 to 11,000 feet. The major feature of this unit is the Hunter Creek valley, which runs east to west. Most of the terrain is steep. The main vegetation types are spruce-fir, aspen, and lodgepole pine with willows along the creeks. Oakbrush and sagebrush are found in lower elevations.
Special features or attractions	High-elevation wetland bogs are present in the Warren Lakes area. There are some old cabins near Hunter Creek. There is little or no avalanche danger. There are cherry-stem private roads on the area's southern tip.

AREA 75 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	Logging operations occurred historically at the unit's north and south ends. These areas are regarded as having a low potential for timber harvest because of unsuitable roads.
Recreation	The area receives much hiking use and some mountain biking and cross-country skiing, especially by local residents. Some hunting and fishing occurs.
Minerals	There is a moderate potential for mineral development overall. The potential may be high near the Smuggler area on the west central boundary.
Wildlife	The area is used as summer range by deer and elk. A Forest Service Region 2 sensitive species may exist in this area.
Range	This unit includes part of the vacant Red Mountain Allotment.
Water	Major features include Hunter Creek and the marsh area around Warren Lakes.

AREA 75 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>medium</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>medium</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>medium</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>low</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>low</i>
Backpacking	<i>low</i>
Hiking.....	<i>low</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>low</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>low</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>low</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>low</i>
Are manageable	<i>medium</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>medium</i>

AREA 75 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 77

North Independence "A"

Acres	4,548
Ranger district	Aspen
History	This area was in RARE II Unit 178. This area may have been excluded from previous recommendations as wilderness because it serves as a buffer zone from Highway 82. Some special features include an old stock driveway and scattered evidence of historic mining.
Location and access	The unit is located east of Aspen in Pitkin County. To the east of the area is the historic mining town of Independence. Access from Highway 82 is along the unit's southern border. Smuggler Mountain Road is on the northwestern border.
Surroundings	The Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness is located to the north and the Highway 82 corridor to the south. Private lands border the eastern and western ends of the unit.
Physical and biological description	Elevations range from 8,000 to 12,000 feet. The unit consists mainly of steep, rocky, south-facing slopes. Vegetation varies with elevation from oakbrush to lodgepole pine to spruce-fir and aspen to alpine tundra. The north-northwest section of the unit is drier and less steep with more oakbrush.
Special features or attractions	Historic cabins and other evidence of mining are found in the area. There is an old stock driveway in the northwest section.

AREA 77 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	A remnant stand of ponderosa pine is present above Difficult Campground. There is potential in the northwest section for logging of spruce-fir, aspen, and Douglas-fir.
Recreation	Uses include backcountry hiking and camping, small- and big-game hunting, and fishing. Some illegal snowmobile and motorcycle use occurs in meadows west of Smuggler Mountain. The highway corridor near the unit is used for sightseeing and rock climbing.
Minerals	The potential for mineral development is high in the northwestern corner near Smuggler Mountain.
Wildlife	The unit provides a travel corridor for deer and elk. Golden eagles and goshawks have been sighted.
Fire	Brush areas may be susceptible to fire.
Heritage resources	Remnants of the mining era are present in the form of cabin foundations, mining flumes, and prospecting digs. The Smuggler area shows evidence of early timber cutting.
Special uses	Slope stabilization work has been done to mitigate movement from highway cuts. There is one springbox and waterline, and one private access road. Some telephone lines paralleling Highway 82 may be located within the unit.

AREA 77 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>medium</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>medium</i>
Manageability	<i>medium</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>low</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>low</i>
Hunting	<i>medium</i>
Fishing	<i>N/A</i>
Backpacking	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>low</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>low</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>low</i>
Hiking	<i>low</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>low</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>low</i>
Are manageable	<i>low</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>low</i>

AREA 75 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>

Roadless Area 84 Treasure Mountain

Acres	3,123
Ranger district	Sopris
History	This unit corresponds with part of the RARE II Unit 181, "Raggeds." It is adjacent to the Raggeds Wilderness.
Location and access	The area is entirely in Gunnison County. It is southeast of the town of Marble. There are no cherry-stemmed roads into the unit. There are no system trails in the unit. Private property and steep slopes limit access.
Surroundings	The unit is bordered on the north by private land along the Crystal River, on the east and west by private property, and on the south by the Raggeds Wilderness.
Physical and biological description	Elevations range from about 8,900 feet near the Crystal River to almost 13,500 feet at the summit of Treasure Mountain. The terrain generally is very steep and mainly north facing. There are many rock outcrops. Vegetation consists mainly of spruce-fir and alpine tundra with some aspen and open avalanche chutes. There are two small, unnamed alpine lakes.
Special features	The unit offers a very high opportunity for solitude.

AREA 84 RESOURCE USES

Vegetation	There is no known timber harvesting activity because of steepness, access problems, and poor sites.
Recreation	A very light amount of recreation use, including backcountry skiing and very limited hiking and hunting, occurs. Helicopter skiing was permitted in the 1980s, which probably accounts for the exclusion of the area from Raggeds Wilderness. There is current commercial interest in obtaining a new helicopter skiing permit.
Minerals	The potential is believed to be low.
Wildlife	The area contains some elk summer range as well as ptarmigan habitat.

AREA 84 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (ALL RATINGS ARE HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW, OR N/A—NOT APPLICABLE)

Primary Elements

Opportunity for solitude	<i>high</i>
Natural and free from disturbance	<i>high</i>
Manageability	<i>high</i>

Other supporting elements

Environmental and special features

Scientific, educational, or historical values	<i>low</i>
Variety and abundance of wildlife	<i>medium</i>
Special features	<i>low</i>
Provides challenge and adventure	<i>high</i>

Degree of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences

Summer

Camping	<i>high</i>
Hunting	<i>high</i>
Fishing	<i>medium</i>
Backpacking	<i>high</i>
Hiking.....	<i>high</i>

Winter

Skiing	<i>high</i>
Mountain climbing	<i>N/A</i>
Hiking	<i>N/A</i>

Manageability—the extent that boundaries:

Are recognizable	<i>medium</i>
Conform with terrain	<i>medium</i>
Are manageable	<i>high</i>
Constitute a barrier to prohibited use	<i>high</i>

AREA 84 AVAILABILITY DETERMINATION

1. Is the area vitally needed for increased water protection and storage?	<i>no</i>
2. Would wilderness designation seriously restrict important wildlife management measures?	<i>no</i>
3. Does the area have high strategic or economic mineral development potential?	<i>no</i>
4. Are there unique or outstanding natural phenomena that require public access and development that would be inconsistent with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>
5. Is the land needed to meet clearly documented resource demands such as for timber, minerals, or developed recreation sites including winter sports?	<i>no</i>
6. Are there existing contractual or other significant obligations on the area not in concert with wilderness designation?	<i>no</i>